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The Guardian

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Life in and out of the IRA

The informer

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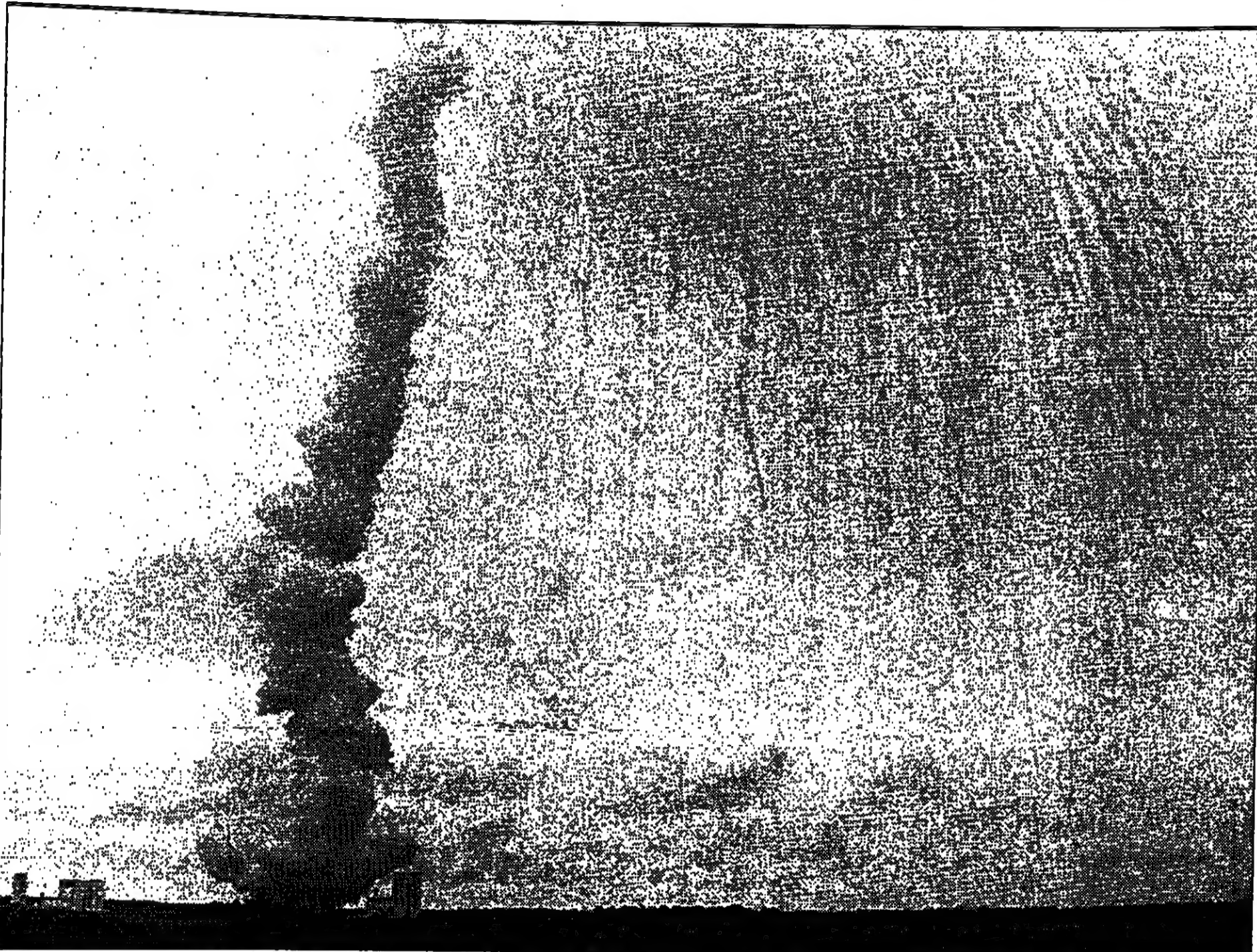
Parents, G2 pages 12/13

Society

Humanising the cities

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And it wasn't insured



Aerial pyrotechnics over French Guiana as the Ariane 5 rocket explodes in flames, blown up by controllers after it veered off course on its maiden flight. PHOTOGRAPH: PATRICK HERTZOG

Billions lost after European rocket falls in flames

Tim Radford
Science Editor

HORRIFIED scientists watched as Europe's most ambitious space launch ended in flames 40 seconds after blast-off yesterday, showering tons of toxic chemicals over the jungle of French Guiana, and wiping out a decade of effort. No one was harmed, but the cost could be hundreds of millions of pounds.

Ariane 5 — a prototype European launcher built to challenge the US space shuttle and capable of lobbing seven tons of hardware into orbit — veered off course on its maiden flight and had to be blown up by its controllers at 13,000 feet. It was the climax to a \$5 billion development for the launcher — and the complete incineration of a \$500 million four-satellite experiment to monitor the sun.

Nether the launcher nor the flotilla of identical satellites aboard were insured. "To get insurance for the first launch of a rocket is pretty damned near impossible," said one scientist. "Given the problems of getting insurance and given that science is always on the scrounge, we were quite happy to have a free launch aboard the first

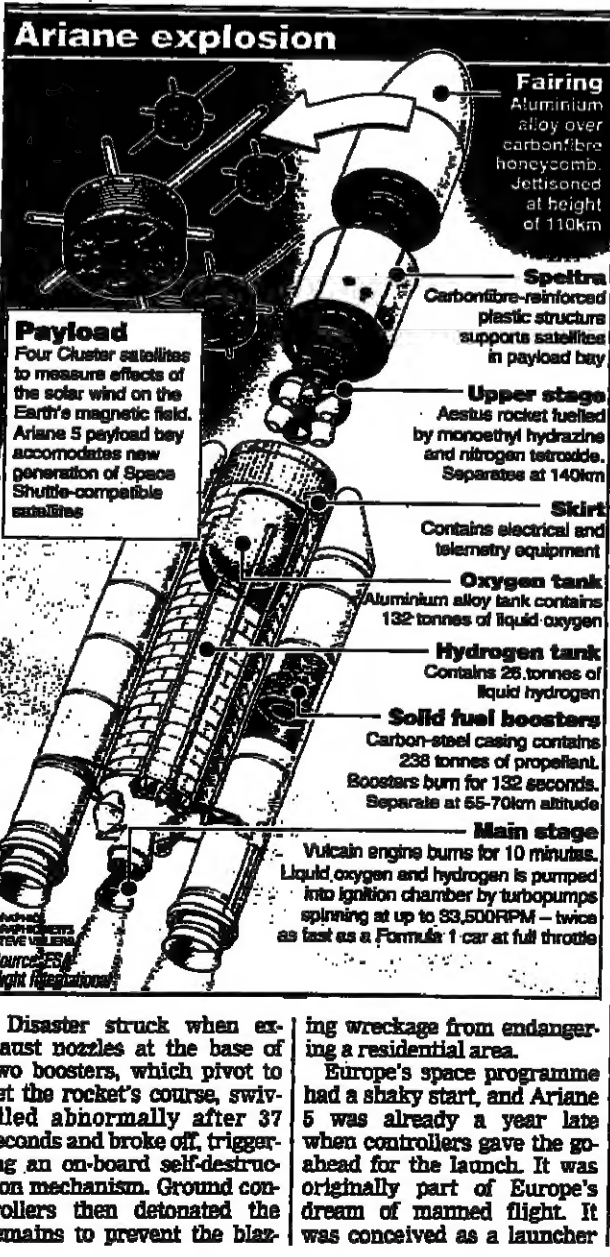
flight of Ariane 5. But of course that free launch had rather a sting in the tail," he said.

"Instead of flying ballast, they flew a payload. It was a balance of risk," said Professor Ken Pounds of Britain's Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council, and a space scientist. "There is clearly always a bigger risk in the first test flight of something brand new. You tend to get insurance on commercial launches like communications satellites, but there is no practise of insuring scientific missions."

He added: "You don't have spares, you don't have insurance. Basically that was really just a write-off."

The launch, relayed to Britain and watched by researchers from all over Europe, had scientists in tears. "When it blew up there was a tangible feeling of loss. You could cut the air with a knife, we were all shell-shocked for about two minutes, with a room full of 60 people not saying a word, not knowing how to react," said Nick Flowers of the Mullard Space Laboratory.

"We are numbed with disbelief," said Trevor Davies of the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. "We will take some time to regroup and decide how to carry on, but carry on we damn well will."



for a space tug, a European-managed vehicle designed as part of President Ronald Reagan's international space station Freedom.

Europe still has a part in the refurbished space station, on which work will start next year. But Ariane 5 had a new target: the billion dollar commercial launcher business.

Britain is a member of the European Space Agency but had always refused to finance Ariane 5.

Yesterday Europe and her US partners lost nearly \$500 million in the Cluster satellite experiment. Britain, which was to handle and distribute the astonishing quantities of information beamed down from 11 instruments on each of the four satellites, invested and lost a total of about 244 million.

John Major called it a "distressing loss" and told the Commons there was still a future for European co-operation on "this and other matters".

Ariane 5's main stage engine is designed to burn 130

tons of liquid oxygen and 25 tons of hydrogen in 570 seconds. But this was to be boosted by two additional stages, each burning 237 tons of solid fuel in 130 seconds.

Environmental campaigners in French Guiana had already warned that this represented a danger to the rainforest below. Yesterday, at 1.35 BST, most of this firepower went up in flames. Observers two miles from the launchpad were evacuated wearing gas masks.

"The accident took place over a totally evacuated zone and no ground personnel members of the public were visibly affected," said Michel Miglio, director of the Guiana Space Centre. Claude Bigot, president of ArianeSpace, the agency's commercial launch arm, said "It's a disappointment, but we have to bounce back. Life goes on."

Ariane space rockets already earn the company \$586 million a year, but the new Ariane 5 was supposed to cut launch costs and lob bigger payloads into higher orbits. Ariane 4 has a waiting list of 45 launches worth nearly \$2.3 billion, including eight more scheduled for this year.

Mr Bigot said an investigation into the cause of the Ariane 5 launch failure would start immediately and its results should be known by mid-July. Francois Fillon, the French space minister, said ArianeSpace would then start preparing a second Ariane 5 launch.

"We knew the risks we were running. We're going to do all we can to ensure that the great European space adventure remains a success," he said.

Billion-dollar hiccup, page 8

Unionist fury at talks role for Mitchell

Patrick Wintour, David Sharrock and Martin Kettle

HARDLINE Unionists last night vented their anger at a claimed deal between the Irish and British governments giving Senator George Mitchell, the close adviser to President Clinton, chairmanship of the plenary talks on the political future of Northern Ireland starting next Monday.

He is also to chair a vital sub-committee overseeing decommissioning of paramilitary weapons.

Jim Paisley, the Democratic Unionist leader, claimed — following talks with John Major yesterday — that Mr Mitchell had been given "a supreme role" and would be "some sort of Pope sitting over all the talks strands".

He described Mr Mitchell as "a crony of Gerry Adams" and "totally unacceptable" to Unionists. "I think they are deliberately trying to hijack the negotiating body and I don't think they will be able to do it," he said.

Mr Mitchell's appointment was agreed in outline yesterday during talks in London between Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and Dick Spring, the Irish Foreign Minister.

Different chairmen will be appointed to oversee the main three strands of talks — on the future of Northern Ireland, the future of North-South relations, and the future of Dublin-London relations.

The two governments have also agreed that there will be a review of the progress of the talks in September, before which there will be no requirement for any decommissioning of paramilitary weapons.

Britain and Dublin clearly hope the deal will even now persuade the IRA into a last-minute agreement to restore its ceasefire, the sole precondition for Sinn Fein inclusion in the talks in Belfast next Monday. Otherwise, there

Sinn Fein and the N. Ireland talks

Sinn Fein polled 15% of the vote in elections to all party talks on the constitutional future of Northern Ireland. Do you think they should be allowed to join the talks even if the IRA does not renew its ceasefire or should they not be allowed to join?

Allowed	32
Not allowed	58
Don't know	10

Source: ICM

could be a confrontation when Sinn Fein theatrically turns up, only to be physically blocked.

The refusal to allow Sinn Fein to enter the talks without a ceasefire gets a big boost from today's Guardian-ICM poll.

The poll, taken after last week's Northern Ireland elections, shows that voters oppose unconditional Sinn Fein participation by nearly two to one.

Asked whether Sinn Fein should be allowed to join the talks even if the IRA does not renew its ceasefire, 58 per cent said No, 32 per cent Yes, and 10 per cent were don't know. Conservative voters are opposed by 67.23 per cent, Labour by 55.38 per cent and Liberal Democrats by 56.38 per cent.

Further details of the issues will be discussed today on the telephone by John Major and John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister.

Mr Bruton said yesterday: "The British and Irish governments have invested a lot in the talks. We want them to be a success. We hope to see everybody there. That is why we are putting so much effort into getting things right, as far as possible in advance."

The broad settlement pleased nationalists who have been pressing for a prominent role for Senator Mitchell. Turn to page 2, column 3

One man's view, G2 cover story

XERYUS ROUGE

POUR HOMME

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Carnegie executives were unrepentant after hitting the lottery jackpot with £1.5 million a week profits and bonuses of up to £120,000.

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Public bodies have received gagging orders to stop them making statements which could affect the price of shares in Railtrack.

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GIVENCHY

Sketch

Back from recess into quarantine



Simon Hoggart

THE Commons returned from the Whitsunide break yesterday. Inevitably MPs were soon back on the topic of "seething, half-mad, slavering animals" — or the European commissioners, as Tony Banks (Lab, Newham NE) described them.

Mr Banks was not discussing cows but pets. He was trying to introduce a bill to end the quarantine regulations which are designed to keep Britain free of rabies by obliging cats and dogs to stay banded up in kennels for six months after they arrive in this country.

Some of us remember newspaper articles about Hollywood film stars who tried to smuggle chihuahuas through Heathrow hidden in their minks. Once discovered, they had to be put down. The dogs that is, though in the case of Zsa Zsa Gabor the incinerator must have temptingly beckoned.

Mr Banks pointed out that in the past 17 years not one kennelled pet had contracted rabies, yet some 2,500 had died of other diseases or else from loneliness. "In this gulag for animals".

What's more, the rules didn't apply to cattle or horses, which are also capable of carrying rabies. "The Government is spending £700,000 a year to scare the public while other animals come in and out without any quarantine at all."

Replying, David Shaw (C, Dover), an angry sort of chap who froths at the mouth even when he's saying something like: "I see summer's finally arrived, then", claimed that his constituents would be "on the front line if dogs are free to roam the moment they are let off a ship."

One had a vision of yellow-eyed scavengers skulking

down gangplanks at dead of night, then racing in packs up the White Cliffs to bite Vera Lynn. However, Mr Shaw asserted, the present system worked. Unlike, say, India, Britain was not plagued by rabies.

"What got you then?" asked a Labour backbencher. They don't care for Mr Shaw. Neither does the Speaker. When it came to a vote she simply ignored the cries of "No!" from Mr Shaw's supporters and declared the motion carried. He didn't argue with her. I wouldn't put it past her to have bitten him.

Pets are still banned, but soon we shall be able to take as much bull's sense abroad as we wish. The back axles of Ford Transits will buckle under the weight as cases of the stuff are legally shipped out — all thanks to Mr Major's bold variation.

Or so he would have us believe. Mr Blair takes a different view. He wants to make sure that if the ban is lifted, Mr Major will not be able to claim the credit. To this end, he wrapped himself in the flag (or alternatively, rubbed himself all over with tallow and gelatine) and asked three cautious questions in a manner designed to imply that he was patriotically with the Prime Minister all the way.

It took Mr Ashdown to provide more robust opposition. "Your policy of declaring war... has achieved nothing..."

Mr Major spat away, accusing Mr Ashdown of being "just plain silly... no-one, as you so absurdly put it, has declared war". Except that is, the Liberal leader. At least someone in the Commons is prepared to say what a pointless mess it has all become.

(Meanwhile, I look forward to the first visit to Downing Street by the new Indian prime minister and his reaction to the grim slab of rare beef every leader now faces.)

Mr Major also defended Camelot's huge earnings and massive bonuses. "Their post-tax profits have been less than 1p in the pound," he said, which is itself absurd.

The Lottery is a tax on stupid people, and like other stupid people, it works fairly well. But no-one suggests that the Inland Revenue should take a penny in every pound it raises to spend on yachts and country houses.

ICM poll gives Labour 16-point lead as Tories' non-cooperation tactics with European Union backfire

Beef stance fails to lift vote

Martin Kettle

CONSERVATIVE hopes that the party will win a general election dividend from the tough stance with Europe over the beef ban are dashed by the latest Guardian-ICM opinion poll.

The poll, taken last weekend, shows that only one voter in 100 is more likely to vote Conservative as a result of the Government's handling of the beef crisis, compared with 28 per cent who say they are less likely.

The great majority of voters, 69 per cent, say the issue will make no difference to their voting intention.

Even among Conservative supporters, the policy on beef scores a 4:1 negative rating, with only 4 per cent saying that the Government's handling makes them more likely to vote Conservative, compared with 16 per cent who are less likely, and 78 per cent for whom it will make no difference.

These results paint a totally different picture from the claims made by Conservative Eurosceptics that public opinion is flocking to their cause.

Last night the Government rejected appeals from its EU partners to abandon its obstructive campaign in response to the European Commission decision to lift the ban on beef derivatives.

The stage now seems set for a public confrontation between John Major and his fellow EU

leaders at the Florence summit on June 21-22.

The poll shows that a narrow majority of the population disapproves of the Government's non-cooperation strategy, with Conservatives divided 3:1 in the Government's favour.

Asked whether they approved or disapproved of the Government's decision to block EU business until the beef derivatives ban is lifted and a framework for agreement on beef exports is in place, 42 per cent approved and 44 per cent disapproved, with 14 per cent don't know.

Conservative voters divided 60:27 in favour of the Government policy, with Labour and Liberal Democrat voters opposed.

The failure to turn the beef crisis into political advantage contributes to a largely unchanged Guardian-ICM state of the parties poll for June.

After standard ICM adjustments to take account of the reluctance of some voters to admit to supporting the Conservatives, the figures for this month are: Labour 46 per cent (up 1 point), Conservatives 30 (down 2), Liberal Democrats 19 (down 2) and others 5 (no change).

The Labour lead over the Conservatives is 16 per cent compared with 17 per cent last month, and is broadly in line with the general state of the parties since last autumn.

In ICM's raw unadjusted June survey the figures are: Labour 51 per cent (up 1), Conservatives 25 (down 1), Liberal Democrats 18 (down 2) and others 6 (no change). The unadjusted Labour lead this month stands at 26 per cent (up 2 points).

The beef crisis

Overall has the Government's handling of the beef crisis made you more likely or less likely to vote Conservative at the next election or made no difference one way or the other?

	% All voters	% Tory voters
More likely	4	16
Less likely	78	69
No difference	18	15
Don't know	2	2

crisis to political advantage contributes to a largely unchanged Guardian-ICM state of the parties poll for June.

Taken as a whole, this month's poll presents a disturbing picture for John Major. A year after he submitted himself for re-election as Conservative leader, there is no longer any sign of a Conservative poll revival. ICM calculates that if current poll trends were to continue up to the general election, Labour would win by more than 10 per cent.

ICM interviewed a random sample of 1,200 adults aged 18-plus by telephone between May 31-June 2. Interviews were conducted across the country and the results have been weighted to the profile of all adults.

Leader comment, page 8; Riffing 'charm offensive', page 4

Nigeria chief's wife killed

David Pallister, and agencies in Lagos

THE wife of Chief Moshood Abiola, the imprisoned Nigerian politician, died from gunshot wounds yesterday morning after her car was attacked on a main road in Lagos, the country's commercial capital.

Kudirat Abiola, aged 44, was an outspoken critic of the military regime which imprisoned her husband two years ago after he declared himself the winner of the 1993 presidential elections.

The attack happened at 8.30am as she and her driver were travelling on the Ibadan expressway, about three miles from her home in the northern suburb of Beja. The gunmen, in a Peugeot 505, opened fire with automatic weapons.

Both Mrs Abiola and the driver were hit and were taken to the nearby Eko Hospital. The condition of the driver was unclear last night. Dr Alex Eneli, one of the owners of the hospital, said doctors had immediately operated on her head wound. "She didn't make it," he said. "It was a bad sight. The bullet was at close range."

Although police described the gunmen as hoodlums, there was immediate speculation in Lagos that the attack was an assassination attempt. Suspicions that successive military regimes have resorted to assassination have never been dispelled since the newspaper editor Dale Gijwa was blown up in 1986.

Chief Abiola, a millionaire businessman, was the clear winner of the presidential contest which was annulled by the military regime of General Ibrahim Babangida before he could assume power. Chief Abiola fled the country, and Mr Babangida was ousted in a palace coup by his defence minister, General Sani Abacha.

When Chief Abiola returned and declared himself president in 1994, he was arrested and charged with treason. His trial has been repeatedly postponed after legal wrangles about the jurisdiction of the court in the capital Abuja and which judge should hear it. He is kept in virtual solitary confinement in one room of a guest house in the city.

As a Muslim, Chief Abiola maintained three official wives after the death of his first wife, Simibat, in 1992. Kudirat, who had six children, then became the senior wife. But he has another 18 unofficial wives and a total of more than 60 children, several of whom live abroad.

From being a successful businessman in her own right, Kudirat had become a vociferous campaigner for the release of her husband and for a return to democracy.



Peter Bird in his custom-built craft Spectre II, the vessel which was discovered off the coast of Japan

Solo rower feared drowned in Pacific

Boat found of oarsman trying for first Russia to America crossing

Vivok Chaudhary

LONG-distance rower Peter Bird was feared dead yesterday after his boat was found overturned in the Pacific Ocean.

Friends and relatives of Mr Bird, aged 49, who was attempting to become the first man to row solo across the Pacific from west to east, said they were being "realistic about the situation".

Japanese authorities were continuing an air and sea rescue operation yesterday in an attempt to locate Mr Bird after the boat, Spectre II, was discovered 1,000 miles off the coast of Japan.

Mr Bird, who has previously rowed across the Atlantic, set off from Vostochny, near Vladivostok, on the eastern coast of Russia in March, attempting to become the first man to row across the Pacific to the west coast of America.

His overturned boat was discovered by a passing Singaporean cargo ship. In June 1983, Mr Bird rowed solo for 9,000 miles, crossing the Pacific from San Francisco to Australia's Great Barrier Reef. The 294-day journey made him the first man to row across the Pacific from east to west.

Since 1992, he has made three failed attempts to cross the Pacific Ocean from Vladivostok to San Francisco.

Kenneth Crutchlow, a close friend of Mr Bird's, said: "Obviously, we are being realistic about the situation. Peter was a great man, who had a dream and he went for it. He was the most experienced ocean rower in the world and knew the risks that were involved. But he had chosen to take the challenge and he fully expected to complete his task."

He said Mr Bird's partner, Polly Wickham, and their five-year-old son, Louis, were being comforted by relatives but fully supported his attempt to cross the Pacific for a second time.

Mr Crutchlow said the \$22,000 Spectre II would be taken to America for examination. "The boat has capsized before and it's always come up, but we have no idea what happened this time and we will have to examine it to see what went wrong."

Mr Bird, who was born in Bromley, Kent, completed his first long voyage in 1974, when he rowed across the Atlantic Ocean from Gibraltar to Santa Lucia. In 1980, he attempted to row across the Pacific in his boat Britannia II but after covering 4,000 miles, it sank just off Hawaii.

Unionists angered by Anglo-Irish deal giving Mitchell key role in talks

continued from page 1

establish his thinking.

The London talks between Sir Patrick and Mr Spring yesterday were held against the background of a warning by the IRA that the possibility of a restored ceasefire before June 10 was remote.

The morning session included discussions of a claim by Mr Trimble that he would not allow substantive negotiations to start on June 10, but would instead only allow talks about the nature of the agenda and the procedures for negotiations.

However, Mr Trimble accepted the two governments' proposal of a review in September, so implying he was willing to have talks, if not substantive negotiations, with Sinn Fein, assuming a ceasefire, without the need for a start to decommissioning.

In a keynote speech, Mr Mowlem, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, set out four key principles including a statement that increasing cross-border co-operation to make the border increasingly less relevant was simply common sense.

ICM interviewed a random sample of 1,200 adults aged 18-plus by telephone between May 31 and June 2 1996. Interviews were conducted across the country and the results have been weighted to the profile of all adults.

Results of June ICM poll, page 2; The Lying Game, G2 cover story

Book review

Failing to score in action replay

John Duncan

4-2 by David Thomson Bloomsbury, £16.99

HERE must be a whole bunch of writers who hate Nick Hornby to the core. For not only did he invent a genre — football as a metaphor for the travails of the Led — he marked out the territory so effectively and so thoroughly plied on every stylistic bush that each imitator looks feeble in comparison. David Thomson's 4-2 is no exception.

In the year of Euro 96, Thomson, critic and author of the acclaimed Biographical Dictionary of Film, takes us back to 1986 and the last time England hosted a big tournament. He seeks to use the match itself — 120 minutes of action, not actually a very good game, but no matter — as the backdrop for saying something about life, the world, his father and everything, with Thomson recalling conversations he was having during the match, and thoughts too.

So we get long chunks of description of the match interspersed with flashbacks to his childhood or observations about football or the world.

Here's the merest hint of the "action" sections. "The free kick goes to Stiles, by way of Hurst to Bobby Charlton, who slips it to Ball on the right. He, in turn, gives it outside to Cohen, who is overlapping. The

full-back is well covered. He doubles back and gives it to Stiles... etc, etc.

None of this would be too bad if it were brief but there are double pages of this stuff. "The magic of that match has little to do with who passed to whom and what happened second by second, but the context of the game, what happened afterwards, what it said about our country, what has changed. Frustratingly, Thomson shows glimpses of understanding that — his views on why England loves a plucky loser more than a cocky winner — are well argued, if unoriginal.

He has a good turn of phrase too — he describes Denis Law as "James Dean cut with some mad ballet dancer". He had violence in him, spite, a nastiness reserved especially for the English. And yet Denis Law, so slim of hip, so swift in the turn, could somehow look like a beautiful, dangerous girl.

Like Hornby, Thomson invites us into his childhood, but even in this he is left trailing in the wake of others who have done it better — Keith Waterhouse's City Lights being the most recent and best.

If you want to relive the 1966 World Cup final blow by blow, buy the video. If you want to read a beautiful book about childhood, buy City Lights. If you want to practise editing a book into a newspaper article, grab a blue pen and rush out and get 4-2.

Words have wings and that's the truth (thanks to seat-back phones in our planes to Florence).

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Camelot 'shovelled £77m into furniture van'

CAMELOT'S role in running the National Lottery was likened by one MP yesterday to "shovelling banknotes into a furniture van".

Joe Ashton, a member of the National Heritage select committee, added: "The Government have created a licence to pinch money."

He was one of a number of critics who condemned the size of the company's £77.5 million pre-tax profit, announced yesterday.

Camelot's big new advertising campaign (right), aimed at proving that running the lottery was not a piece of cake, also came under fire.

Richard Branson, who failed in his bid to win the licence, jibed that they wanted to have their cake and eat it.

Andrew Cuff looks at the background to the company's profits and the attitudes of the five men who will reap bonuses of between £55,000 and £120,000.

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It could be you — it's certainly them



Tim Holley, chief executive
 Pay: £245,000
 Bonus: £123,000
 What is your value to the company? "That is for others to judge. I have brought together the team and we operate as a team. It is for other people to judge my performance and what it's worth. I want to concentrate on maximising money for the Good Causes and the shareholders." Do you give to charity? "Yes. That's a personal thing."



Peter Murphy, finance director
 Pay: Somewhere between £120,000 and £160,000
 Bonus: Between £55,000 and £90,000
 What is your value to the company? "That is for others to say."
 Do you give to charity? "Yes, I have done for many years. Mainly to cancer and children's charities."



David Clark, lottery operations director
 Pay: Somewhere between £120,000 and £160,000
 Bonus: Between £55,000 and £90,000
 What is your value to the company? No comment.
 Do you give to charity? "It's a very private matter between the directors and their charities" — Camelot spokeswoman.



Norman Hawkins, commercial operations director
 Pay: Somewhere between £120,000 and £160,000
 Bonus: Between £55,000 and £90,000
 What is your value to the company? No comment.
 Do you give to charity? "It's a very private matter between the directors and their charities" — Camelot spokeswoman.



David Rigg, communications director
 Pay: £115,000
 Bonus: £55,000
 What is your value to the company? "That's for others to judge. All the people at Camelot are paid the going rate, not a penny more, not a penny less, and it's what they deserve."
 Do you give to charity? "I do support various charities, but that's a personal matter."

Shout success from rooftops, say executives

CAMELOT executives were unrepentant last night after hitting the National Lottery jackpot with profits of £1.5 million a week and individual salary bonuses of up to £120,000.

As the company faced an avalanche of criticism, chief executive Tim Holley insisted that the success of the lottery should be trumpeted from the rooftops.

His salary package totalled £265,250 and his fellow executives the directors picked up bonuses ranging from £55,000 to £90,000, as Camelot's pre-tax profits soared to £77.5 million.

MPs called for the lottery to be taken out of private hands and demanded more cash for charities.

But Camelot insisted it had become the most efficient lottery operator in the world and sales of £2.5 billion had raised £1.416 million for good causes. It said after-tax profits of £51.1 million were in line with predictions and amounted to less than 1p in every £1 spent on the lottery.

Its five shareholders — Cadbury Schweppes, De La Rue, G7Tech UK, Racal Electronics

and International Computers — shared an £184 million dividend for the year.

Mr Holley said: "What self-respecting supermarket would operate on profits of 1 per cent? They would say they were failing."

Mr Holley told the Guardian: "I think we should celebrate today. We should all be congratulating people who work very hard. We tend to criticise as part of our culture in this country, but people in other parts of the world are amazed we are not shouting from the rooftops."

Camelot's future profits are likely to be inflated by the launch of a midweek draw.

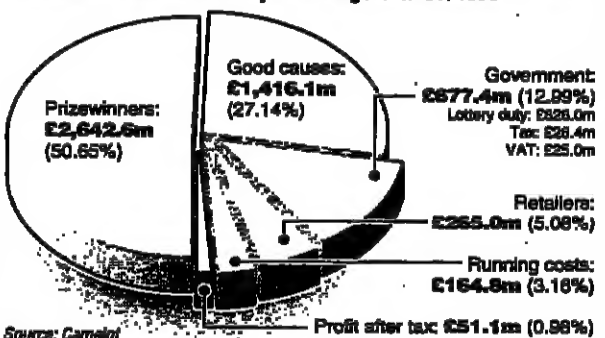
Defending the 50 per cent bonuses paid to five executive directors, Mr Holley said pay rates had been determined by three independent surveys.

"They have confirmed we are paying competitive rates. The bonuses are focused on getting results and paid for savings profits and money for the good causes. Everyone in the company has worked very hard and they are worth every penny."

The Prime Minister rallied to Camelot's defence in the Commons describing it as

Where the money goes

Camelot unaudited results for year ending March 31, 1996



Source: Camelot

"extraordinarily successful" and having done "spectacularly well" in maximising funds for good causes.

But the company's advertising campaign, designed to pre-empt criticism of the profits was derided by Richard Branson, chairman of the Virgin group, who unsuccessfully bid to run the lottery on a non-profit making basis. He was scornful of the double-page advertisements which said Camelot's job was not a piece of cake.

He said: "They were right. It is not a piece of cake. Today's figures prove that they have had their cake and eaten it too."

"As predicted by everyone but Camelot, it is a genuine licence to print money, making huge monopoly profits which should be donated to charity."

Camelot paid £550,000 to charity last year, putting it in

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Brewery to beer buffs: Time gents please, because you're no gents

Nick Varley

REAL ale drinkers may be waking up with a hangover this morning — even if they didn't enjoy a tippie last night.

For their hallowed Campaign for Real Ale stands accused of harbouring members more interested in getting a free pint for themselves than fighting the good fight.

It is also accused of unnecessarily attacking big breweries' real ale efforts.

Tim Martin, chairman of independent brewers JD Wetherspoon, has asked for his 30 pubs recommended in Camra's Good Beer Guide to be left out.

"A minority of Camra members, often in positions of influence, appear to be taking advantage of their positions to pursue goals which are foreign to the in-

terests of real ale drinkers," he wrote to the group.

His anger spilled over after Camra boycotted one of his pubs in Portsmouth in a dispute over the display of guest beer prices.

A minority of Camra members expect preferential treatment in Wetherspoon pubs, he added.

Camra's campaigns manager, Stephen Cox, replied: "Tim Martin knows there's

no chance of us taking his pubs out of the guide, so he can play to the gallery, yet keep the enormous benefit of being in the guide."

"The complaint that we pillory big brewery real ales is an enormous generalisation. We have given awards to a number of them. Our chairman, John Crys, has faxed a letter back saying, 'Let's meet and discuss it.'"

Presumably over a pint.

If a Labour government compelled small children to go up chimneys or work in blacking factories, it would simultaneously save a fortune on the education budget, cut wage costs — and keep youngsters out of trouble, since the little blighters would be far too exhausted to get up to any mischief.

Francis When

سکتا من الالعمل

Britain's busiest interchange to get its own beach

Peter Hetherington

ATHIN haze hung over the small lake beside the maze of flyovers. Swans, grebes, Canada geese and a few brave souls lazed in the sun, and Winifred Sherrington tried in vain to fan away the exhaust fumes as she lounged on the grass under Spaghetti Junction, Birmingham.

"I suppose it must do you some harm, some complaint of asthma and chest problems; but it's a good amenity none the less," she said.

Two hundred yards away the men from the British Waterways Board and landscape architects were talking about grander plans for the dark wasteland below Britain's busiest interchange.

They would like to create a beach bang under the M6 overlooking a confluence of canals and the river Tame, complete with artificial sunlight courtesy of large pylons.

As part of a £3 million European Union-supported plan to revitalise canals in the area, the waterways board is sparing no expense to transform the underside of the Gravelley Hill interchange.

Artists will be employed to paint over the huge concrete columns, while sculptures and other works of art could provide the final touch, turning, they hope, a motoring nightmare into a tourist attraction by next summer.

"No, it's no joke," the man from the waterways board said as Wendy Hopper enthused about a long overdue project to revive a much maligned area.

Ms Hopper lives 200 yards from Spaghetti Junction, and will soon have a beach at the bottom of her garden. "Yes, that's it. Unbelievable, isn't it?" she told visitors.

A bonus, surely? "Let's put it this way: my imagination doesn't go so far yet, but give it time. Can you imagine sun, sand and deck chairs on that dirty patch?"



Officials Mike Wilson (left), Alison Lush, Alisa Raeburn and Jim Quinn relax in the exhaust fumes on the site of a beach to be created under Spaghetti Junction, Birmingham, in an attempt to improve the amenities of the area

Tallow ban ends but EU war goes on

John Palmer in Brussels, Stephen Bates in Luxembourg and Michael White

PROSPERITY for a nearly overall settlement of Britain's beef war receded last night after the Government rejected appeals from other European Union states to abandon its obstruction in response to the European Commission's decision to lift the ban on beef derivatives today.

The stage now seems set for a public confrontation between John Major and his fellow European Union leaders at the Florence summit on June 21 — unless Britain's new "charm offensive" proves more successful than its tactics so far.

The offensive was launched by the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, to win support for a framework plan, linking a phased lifting of the overall ban to specific steps to eliminate BSE.

But a cautious Prime Minister implicitly admitted under pressure in the Commons from both Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown — that the framework approach, which would ease different aspects of the ban stage by stage, will not include a detailed timetable to end it completely. The ban could last for years.

Though the formula will be hard enough to negotiate in Brussels, it is unlikely to appease Tory Eurosceptics. And Mr Rifkind's move received only a highly qualified welcome from the European Commission, which still wants further details of Britain's anti-BSE drive.

Although Mr Rifkind also discussed the plan with Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Berlin, the German government signally withheld any endorsement of it.

Last night Mr Rifkind welcomed the commission's announcement that it will lift the derivatives ban, but rejected calls by France and other EU countries for Britain immediately to abandon or "amend or reduce" its obstructionist tactics.

France also urged Britain to display "the same spirit of cooperation" as the commis-

sion had done in deciding to lift the ban on tallow, gelatin, and semen today — after farm ministers failed to agree the move on Monday. But the lifting of the ban will not come into effect until the Government has issued licences to premises extracting gelatin and tallow, and safety inspections have occurred.

Despite persistent disappointments for Britain's efforts to lift the ban, Mr Rifkind stood by the new tougher tactics. "The prime minister has said that the policy of non-cooperation will be lifted when the derivatives ban is removed and there is an agreement on a framework procedure for the phased lifting of the beef ban. I have no intention of amending what he has said," he said.

In Luxembourg, the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, carried on Britain's campaign of obstruction and blocked cooperation in the fight against

The stage seems set for a public confrontation at the Florence summit on June 21

drugs, crime and international terrorism. But Mr Major will be unable to do the same in Florence since the summit will not be presented with any legal decisions to take. Moreover, the Italian presidency will simply present the overall political conclusions reached by the other 14 member states, leaving Mr Major to express personal dissent if he wishes.

The Government's framework plan prioritises the lifting of the ban on new born calves, and then seeks the lifting of the ban for animals in situations where there is a comprehensive identification system or where they are grass fed. That should bring early relief to beef producers in Northern Ireland and Scotland. But EU officials could not say when. "We need answers to more questions before we can give any opinion on these matters," said Klaus van der Pas, the commission's chief spokesman.

Fines threat to beef exporters

Paul Brown Environment Correspondent

THE Government is to impose penalties on many large meat exporters for failing to sell beef abroad — even though they cannot export it because of the European Union ban.

This decision, the Government claims, is being forced on it by the EU under export certificate rules framed to prevent fraud. It believes if it does not demand the money the European Commission will impose penalties on Britain for breaking regulations.

Exporters say they have told both the Ministry of Agriculture and the Prime Minister of their plight, but have been refused help.

Martin Richardson, managing director of First City Trading in Belgravia, London, said: "It is a nightmare from which I keep hoping I will wake up. It is hard to believe the Government cannot sort this out."

His company has been told it will have to pay £750,000 for failing to execute export orders contracted before the ban. It will be fined another £20,000 for not taking up licences it applied for but was prevented from using. A dozen other exporters face the same problem.

Mr Richardson, a committee member of the British Beef Exporters group, said the industry had grown up with government encourage-

ment to remove the EU's beef mountain. He added: "Beef exporting is not viable without subsidy. The £750,000 fine is in fact the repayment of a subsidy we got to export the beef in the first place, but we were not allowed to sell it. Now it has to be sold here. The £20,000 fine is for further export licences we applied for but could not use."

He said the cost of producing beef in Europe is far above the world price, but as the EU has a surplus, to keep farmers in business it exported it. Without subsidy farmers would go bankrupt, so the payment to exporters was the difference between world price and EU price.

To prevent fraud there is a system of export certificates, with a subsidy payable in advance when the beef is put in a bonded warehouse from where it has to be exported. The subsidy for best cuts at the time of the ban in March was £2.35 a kilo.

"We lost some staff and the rest of us took a pay cut to keep the company in business. There are about 10 firms in the same boat," Mr Richardson said. "These fines are the last straw — we cannot pay and we will go bankrupt. Our only hope is to appeal to the courts for fair play."

A spokesman for the Intervention Board, a quango that administers the scheme for the Ministry of Agriculture, said it was forced under EU regulations to ask for subsidy money back.

Victim of beating by police wins £150,000 damages

Nick Varley

AMAN was yesterday awarded £150,000 damages against the Metropolitan Police in the sixth big payout this year ordered against the force.

Terry Brownbill was beaten after arrest, then falsely charged with assaulting two police sergeants. He was acquitted 18 months later.

The damages were awarded against Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, at Central London county court. Judge Quentin Edwards suspended the payment of £125,000 pending an appeal by the force against the amount. A police spokes-

man said: "The judge ruled that the arrest of Mr Brownbill was lawful as he did not give his name and address or try to give an explanation of a tax disc found in his possession."

Mr Brownbill was arrested in Peckham, south-east London in May 1981. His counsel, Anthony Jennings, alleged that police later altered documents and invented allegations of assault to cover up their own unlawful actions.

Mr Brownbill said: "I have waited five years for this vindication, and clearly the jury have supported me. I hope the commissioner will now do something to the officers to prevent this type of incident happening to someone else."

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Critics get their first view of the Royal Academy Summer Show yesterday while (below) a sculpture dominates an exhibition room

PHOTOGRAPHS: DAVID MANSFIELD

Consultants 'fail to watch juniors'

Chris Milne
Medical Correspondent

ONE in 10 junior doctors carry out operations which are beyond their competence at least once a week, the Audit Commission warns today.

The quality of supervision of junior doctors needs to be improved as there are wide variations in the time consultants devote to training, the commission says.

There should also be wider use of job plans by consultants, setting down the time they should spend in theatre and out-patients as opposed to administrative or teaching commitments, as clearer job specifications would mean more patients being treated.

The commission's report builds on a study it carried out last year looking at the workload of consultants and the training of juniors. It covers 112 hospitals, looking at the work of 1,822 consultants and 1,887 juniors.

The report states: "One in five pre-registration house officers and one in 10 senior house officers reported that they have to do a task which they feel is beyond their competence at least once every week."

The report echoes previous studies in finding much lower levels of supervision by consultants of juniors at nights and weekends, but there are also large variations in daytime supervision.

Variations in supervision are also seen at out-patient clinics, where it is routine for junior doctors to work in separate rooms to consultants.

"In some cases the junior doctors derive little or no training benefit."

The report says that in one

third of departments junior doctors are still working longer than 56 hours a week.

Jonathan Boyce, director of health studies at the Audit Commission, said: "Some consultants supervise 30 per cent of out-of-hours operations, while others supervise 80 per cent."

"We are not saying that juniors should be supervised by consultants for all operations at all times, but we are saying there is a lot of variation. Either juniors are being over-supervised on the one hand, or they are being recklessly under-supervised on the other."

The report says that 25 per cent of consultants have no job plans.

Mr Boyce said: "If job plans are sorted out it could mean considerable amounts of extra work being carried out in out-patients and operating theatres."

Jim Johnson, chairman of the British Medical Association consultants' committee, said: "Although their contract is a national one, it contains a necessary flexibility to meet local circumstances. As a result, consultants give more time to the NHS than they are contracted for."

Mr Johnson added: "The criticism that some consultants do not have job plans is a failure of management which we do not condone."

"Job plans are useful and we regret that managements are too busy trying to cope with running the internal market."

"Similarly, we believe there should be more structured training for junior doctors. But this will require major financial investment by the Government."

The Doctors' Tale Continued, Audit Commission, HMSO, £10

Bereaved artist takes revenge on critics

Dan Glaister on a 'very personal and powerful expression' at the Royal Academy Summer Show

THE cheapest work, *Portrait of a Pet*, by Joan Whiteford of Penzance, is on sale for just £40. The most expensive, a controversial collage by one of the founders of pop art, carries a price tag of £200,000.

The Royal Academy Summer Show, the largest open contemporary art exhibition in the world, begins on Sunday with its customary mix of the celebrated and the obscure. Buyers' day today is the first opportunity for the public to see the works on show, and many are expected to rush in and buy blind without having seen the works.

Whiteford's piece is a small black and white etching of a spaniel. At the other end of the spectrum is

Ron Kitaj's piece, *The Critic Kills*. "This painting is a magazine," writes Kitaj. "It is the first issue of an irregular art journal called *Sandra*."

Kitaj's wife, Sandra Fisher, died of a brain haemorrhage in 1984 during an exhibition by the artist at the Tate Gallery. The Tate show had been panned by several critics, who criticised its vanity. One described the painter as "unworthy of a footnote in the history of art."

Kitaj has responded by producing a highly personal work that serves both as a tribute to his late wife and as an attack on his critics.

"It is the very personal and very powerful expression of an artist," said the

Royal Academy chairman, Sir Philip Dowson, yesterday. "What he was devastated about was not the attack on his art but the fact that he was attacked as a human being."

The summer show attracted the usual mixed reception for its combination of the modern and the traditional. As well as Kitaj, minor names such as Sarah Armstrong-Jones, celebrated more for her family connections than her art — two small oils, £450 each — mixed with names of international repute.

Sir Philip rejected criticism of the show as an insult to traditional art. "If you used your eyes and walked around would you call Victor Pasmore, Frank Stella, Antoni Tapies and the rest fuddy-duddy?" he asked. "They're all international names."

The summer show has run since 1769. It is open to the public, and attracts

some 12,000 entries — of which 1,200 are hung — from amateurs and professionals. Last year's show generated income of £1.2 million, 30 per cent of which went to the academy.

"The judging is a formidable process," said Leonard McComb, Keeper of the Royal Academy School and a member of the judging committee. "When you first start you can't believe that you're going to see any pictures, let alone judge them."

The biggest prize in the exhibition, the £25,000 Charles Wollaston Award, went to Jeffrey Camp for his oil painting, *Spring*. Other prize winners included Anthony Whishaw, who won an award worth £10,000 for his painting, *Matadero Municipal*, a depiction of an abattoir in Spain. "He owes me a drink for that one," said Sir Philip, pointing at Mr Whishaw's prize-winning painting.



Would-be president's pledge to solicitors

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

THE campaign to oust the maverick Law Society president Martin Mears began yesterday, when a slate headed by the society's deputy vice-president unveiled an election manifesto pledged to restore the profession's battered image.

Tony Girling, who announced he would oppose Mr Mears in this month's presidential election, said the incumbent and his vice-president, Robert Sayer, had "reduced the credibility of the profession, sown schism in the Law Society, and failed to deliver on any of the promises they made to get elected".

He said the pair, seeking an unprecedented second term, had "wasted a year pursuing impossible policies while the profession's real problems have not been tackled".

A third presidential candidate, Anthony Bogan, is running on a ticket to split the society's trade union and regulatory function — a move opposed by Mr Mears but supported by Mr Sayer.

Mr Girling, managing partner of a 23-partner Kent firm, and his running mate, Phil

lip Symmore and Michael Mathews, accused Mr Mears, who won office on a pledge to shake up a complacent Law Society, of trying to force change by dictat.

Mr Mears began his campaign with an open letter to Roger Pannone, a former president, who last month called a press conference to denounce his successor as unfit to lead the profession and to urge him to stand down.

Writing in the *New Law Journal*, Mr Mears acknowledged that he had made mistakes during his presidency. "I hugely underestimated the personal and political run-cour I would experience. My own style is too abrasive. I find it difficult to remain silent in the face of hubbub and cant."

He accused Mr Pannone and other critics of generating unfavourable publicity and then blaming it on him and Mr Sayer. "A press conference? How could the society's dirty linen be more publicly washed?"

"But it is you and those who behave like you who keep these discussions in the public eye. I freely confess that what has been happening makes me sick at heart."

He said Mr Pannone was one of the inner circle who allowed the society's expenditure to become a torrent and its bureaucracy to treble.

When the profession was in recession, "You were there when the alienation between solicitors and the Law Society

became so complete that an outsider like myself could be elected to the presidency."

It was this selfsame old guard who put John Young — who later stood down amid allegations of sexual harassment — forward "as a more suitable leader of the profes-

sion than a cad and bounder like myself", Mr Mears said.

Mr Girling, a council member for 16 years, and his running mate yesterday denied they were part of the old guard. Mr Girling said he was hardly an establishment figure, and had had to persuade

a sceptical council on a number of issues, including taking the then Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham, to court in 1987 over legal aid fees. Mr Mathews, a partner in Britain's biggest law firm, Clifford Chance, only joined the council in 1995.

Owners of runaway lorry may still face death charges

Martin Walkwright

THE Crown Prosecution Service is to reconsider charges against the owners of a quarry tipper lorry which killed six people when its brakes failed on a hill in the Yorkshire Pennines three years ago.

An independent legal panel has been commissioned by the CPS to review its original decision not to prosecute, which was criticised by a High Court judge and relatives of the victims.

The lorry's owner, Fewston Transport of Skipton, which has since gone out of business, was prosecuted only for

allowing the 10 tonne lorry on the road with all eight of its brakes defective. The company was fined the maximum £5,000 by Calderdale magistrates and at a Traffic Commissioners' hearing its main directors, Tony Eyles and Eric Preston, lost their operating licences.

Resentment about the failure to proceed with corporate manslaughter charges has remained high in Sowerby Bridge, where the lorry smashed into a van and a row of shops. The West Yorkshire coroner recorded a verdict of unlawful killing at the inquest.

The CPS move was welcomed yesterday by victims' relatives.

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Russia's Communists plan anti-Yeltsin coalition

Zyuganov offers pact to liberals

David Hearst in Moscow

PROPOSERS of an anti-Boris Yeltsin coalition government of Communists and so-called third force parties received a boost yesterday as Russia's presidential election race entered its final and critical stage.

The Communist leader, Gennady Zyuganov, who is fighting to broaden his political appeal, said that if elected he would invite the leaders of the moderate nationalist and liberal pro-reform parties to join his government.

Speaking in the Siberian city of Novosibirsk, Mr Zyuganov said he was ready to offer senior ministerial posts to Grigory Yavlinsky, the third most popular presidential candidate; the charismatic retired army general, Alexander Lebed; and the millionaire eye surgeon, Svyatoslav Fyodorov.

Mr Zyuganov said: "You may consider my statement as an official invitation," adding that "intensive talks" were already being held.

Speaking about the third force leaders, Mr Zyuganov said: "They are capable, educated men and we hope that it will be possible to combine our efforts."

Mr Yavlinsky, who was in Moscow yesterday, was giving nothing away. His press secretary said Mr Yavlinsky would speak tomorrow. "All sensations will emerge then," he said.

Mr Yavlinsky began his campaign by declaring a plague on the houses of both President Yeltsin and Mr Zyuganov. He is unlikely to declare his hand before the outcome of the first round of

elections on June 16. But the Communist leader's offer was carefully timed, coming a day after Communists and members of Mr Yavlinsky's Yabloko party joined forces to unseat St Petersburg's radical democrat mayor, Anatoly Sobchak.

Although most opinion polls show Mr Zyuganov trailing Mr Yeltsin, the president's advisers cannot afford to be complacent about the prospect of a rival coalition.

The development will please Moscow's powerful businessmen, who signed an open letter pleading for a deal with the Communists to avert civil war.

The businessmen wrote: "We understand the Communists and we acknowledge their political role, expressing the interests of social groups which suffered during the difficult and often erroneous reforms."

For them, Mr Yavlinsky's presence in a coalition government as economics or prime minister would be an important guarantee of free market reforms.

The businessmen are closely linked to Moscow's powerful mayor, Yuri Luzhkov, a politically enigmatic figure carefully courted by Mr Yeltsin. Mr Luzhkov recently accompanied the president on campaign trips to the provinces. But the mayor also gave support to the man who usurped Mr Sobchak's throne in St Petersburg, Vladimir Yakovlev.

Mr Yeltsin's faltering attempts to make a deal with Mr Yavlinsky ground to a halt when the Yabloko leader demanded that the president dismiss his prime minister, Viktor Chomyrdin; the defence minister, General Pavel

Grachev; the head of his administration, Nikolai Yegorov; and the head of the federal security service, Mikhail Barsukov.

Mr Yavlinsky also demanded a halt to the war in Chechnya. Despite peace talks at the Kremlin last week between Mr Yeltsin and the leader of the Chechen rebels, both forces in the breakaway republic have been engaged in heavy fighting.

More talks began yesterday in Nazran, the capital of neighbouring Ingushetia, where the head of the Russian delegation, the nationalities minister, Vyacheslav Mikhailov, met his counterpart, Said Kazh Abumuslimov.

Mr Yeltsin killed off any possible deal with Mr Yavlinsky last week when, in support of Gen Grachev, he declared: "On the whole, the ministry of defence works in a satisfactory way."

The ground for a pact between Mr Yavlinsky and the Communists was prepared by the publication last week of the Communists' economic programme, which was well received by politicians of the centre, who said it contained almost no elements of Marxist-Leninist ideology.

The joker in the pre-election pack, the extreme nationalist, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, also declared himself ready to form a coalition government.

He said yesterday that Mr Yeltsin could not win the election alone.

"A broad coalition is needed in the current transformation period," he said. Mr Zhirinovskiy cannot be ignored. His support is consistently running at up to 12 per cent of the vote, with backing in large parts of the far east and in the army.



Force of persuasion... Yevgeny Primakov gives Nato secretary-general Javier Solana a friendly tug over to his side yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREAS ALTWEN

Moscow warms to Nato expansion

David Fairhall
Defence Correspondent

RUSSIA delighted Nato yesterday by unexpectedly softening its opposition to the alliance's proposed enlargement into eastern Europe, until now harshly criticised by Moscow.

At a private meeting in Berlin, Russia's foreign minister, Yevgeny Primakov, told his Nato counterparts that Moscow had no basic objection to political enlargement, provided it does not mean moving military structures up to Russia's borders.

Mr Primakov emerged from the meeting to praise the Western alliance for "adapting to the new realities", instead of using the combative tone that had been expected from him in

the run-up to the Russian elections on June 16, when the president, Boris Yeltsin, will face nationalist and Communist opponents.

However, Nato chiefs were in no doubt that, should the Communists return to the Kremlin, Moscow can be expected to take a different line.

An outline of the policy Moscow has in mind emerged from the account of yesterday's meeting by the German foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel. This involves a trade-off between the ambitions of former Warsaw Pact countries such as Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic — whose future membership of Nato is almost taken for granted — and those of the Baltic states, formerly part of the Soviet Union, who will not be getting an invitation.

Mr Kinkel said his Russian counterpart had told the Nato meeting: "Russia had no basic objection to other countries' desires to become Nato members, but decisively opposed moving

nuclear weapons or troops are stationed in the countries in peacetime and that Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — which border on Russia and Belarus — remain within Moscow's sphere of influence.

The first condition poses no great problem for Nato, because Norway and Denmark already forbid the peacetime stationing of foreign troops and nuclear weapons on their soil, although both are Nato members. In any case, establishing new Nato bases in eastern Europe would be prohibitively expensive.

On the other hand, leaving the vulnerable, newly independent Baltics permanently out in the cold would cause deep anxiety in those countries.

Another idea broached in Berlin yesterday at a separate meeting of the North

Atlantic Co-operation Council — which includes former Warsaw Pact members as well as Nato — is that the emerging strategic relationship between Russia and the Western alliance should be enshrined in some sort of pact. Mr Primakov indicated Moscow's readiness to start talks on the "enhanced relationship".

France and Germany will seek to end a period of unusual turbulence over defence policy when their leaders meet in Dijon today.

An announcement on February 22 by the French president, Jacques Chirac, that France would shift to an all-professional army by 2002, scrap conscription, cap defence spending and review arms procurement angered Germany's defence minister, Volker Rühbe, over what he saw as a lack of consultation. — Reuter.

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Australian gun owners vent fury at clampdown

Politicians are the target as the firearms lobby protests at tough curbs, writes Christopher Zinn in Shepparton

THE backlash to Australia's plans for tough new gun laws, which were drafted in the aftermath of the Tasmanian massacre in late April, has pushed rednecks and gun-crazed hillbillies into action. But while the paranoid minority and makeshift militias have grabbed the limelight, a majority of gun-owners has been busy packing streets and civic halls in town and country.

In Shepparton, rural Victoria, more than 2,300 people, who claim to have been demonised by the media and politicians, jammed the community centre for what was described as the biggest meeting in the district since the anti-Vietnam war protests.

It began with a minute's silence for the 35 victims of the Port Arthur shootings by a lone gunman on April 28. Most at the rally regarded themselves as law-abiding citizens. They were farmers, volunteer bushfire fighters and shooters with Olympic aspirations — and all felt bitter that planned firearms laws would leave them looking like criminals.

"I don't see why I should give up my hobby because of some madman in Port Arthur," said one marksman and hunter who stood to lose three historic military rifles. Under legislation pending in Victoria, he would face five

years jail if he failed to hand them over.

But who in this fruit-growing area needs the semi-automatic rifles and shotguns which are to be banned nationally and subject to a \$250 million "buy-back" scheme?

Most of those present, if the lively meeting was any indication, were collectors. Others, like panel beater Ricky Bertoli and his wife Louise, liked hunting rabbits, foxes and ducks with friends. It was not only a sport, but a way of life they insisted would be massively compromised if only bolt-action rifles and single-shot shotguns were permitted.

One farmer questioned the two besieged state MPs brave enough to front the meeting, and hit the root of the problem as many country people see it — city people telling them what to do. "Here you are trying to legislate that we should not own automatic shotguns," he said. "Now what do you think we should do, shoot one fox with one shot and let two or three others run away to breed?"

Many, including shop worker Mike Ramage, a hunter and target shooter, were worried that the buy-back would fail to deliver adequate compensation. "I don't think they'll be fair. As we heard at the meeting, they're

offering probably \$200 (\$100) for my pump action shotgun, which is worth \$1,000."

Many in Shepparton believe the new controls — which would restrict semi-automatic weapons to only a very few people — defy commonsense.

To rapturous applause from the crowd, one young man asked a true driver crashed into a bus and killed 35 people, would they take all truck licences off everybody?"

Mr Wilson has about 100 historic rifles and weapons in his own military museum. The gun he is destined to lose first is a small calibre .22 five-shot Browning self-loading "rabbit gun", used by many farmers. But paradoxically, one of Mr Ramage's guns, a powerful .44 magnum lever-action rifle which holds 10 shots and is capable of rapid fire, is not mentioned in the proposed laws.

It was this sort of apparent inconsistency in the proposed legislation which led to 100,000 pro-gun lobbyists taking to the streets of the state capitals last weekend.

The prime minister, John Howard, is standing firm on the gun controls and said he had no intention of allowing Australia to become like the United States.

But a maverick independent federal MP, Graeme Campbell, is forming a pro-gun party which he predicts will have 50,000 paid-up members within a few months. Another shooter's party already has one member in the New South Wales state parliament.

Cartoon capers land pirates in court



In the last report in his series, Andrew Higgins in Shanghai finds that the law's attitudes to copyright theft and the defence of intellectual property are changing

THREE Hair burger might not sound too appetising, nor a Three Hair shirt very comfortable. In China, however, it could be a marketing masterpiece.

Three Hair, or Sanmao, is China's most celebrated cartoon character, a skinny orphan created in 1985 to replace the squalor beneath Shanghai's glitter and rain.

Three Hair was born after the 1949 revolution to cheerlead for communism. He is now at the centre of a bitter custody battle.

"You can't use Mickey Mouse without talking to the Americans so why should we talk to the Americans?" said Zhang Rongrong, eldest son of the cartoon's late creator, the acclaimed artist and satirist Zhang Leping.

Before his death in 1982, Zhang senior frowned on such commercialism. He created Sanmao — a homeless waif with protruding ribs, big head and three strands of hair — to criticise capitalism, not profit from it.

Neither did not pay attention to money," said Mr Zhang. "He never allowed Three Hair to be used on products. For him art was art."

Such idealism was rewarded with a handshake from the premier, Zhou Enlai, in 1957 — and years of persecution. During the cultural revolution, radical Maoists denounced Three Hair as a hooligan. Mr Zhang was sacked from his job as cartoonist for the Liberation Daily and forced to clean the toilets instead.

"My father had great courage. He was bold even after the revolution. But then the campaigns started. He changed. He started to praise instead of criticise," said Mr Zhang junior.

Sanmao, so sharp and poignant before 1949, became an insipid goody-goody.

Today profit, not politics, is a more potent source of pressure. An engineer, the younger Zhang initially balked at going into business.

"Our parents never taught us about money. They taught us to read books," he said.

But, in a city rapidly returning to the extremes of wealth and poverty castigated in his father's cartoons, he decided to take the plunge. Mr Zhang now dreams of a day when the Three Hair name and image will be licensed worldwide, a household name

selling merchandise from fast food to clothing.

"We want to develop Sanmao, but we have no money. Without money to invest, you can't do anything. When we start earning money we can develop this image. From this angle father might understand," Mr Zhang said. Part of the earnings, he said, will go to a charity to help educate poor children.

Mr Zhang is general manager of Shanghai Three Hair Image Development Corporation Ltd, the firm set up to protect and market the family's prize asset. His mother is chairman of the board.

So far, the company consists of little more than calling cards and a rented office. But a campaign to rescue Sanmao from free-market predators is under way.

A publisher in Shaanxi province has been ordered to halt publication of pirate Three Hair cartoons. Judges awarded 20,000 yuan (\$1,300) in compensation. The publisher pleaded poverty and declined to pay.

The Zhang family has now taken on a bigger and far richer opponent. It hired a lawyer and, in April, filed a million-yuan (£65,000) claim

against a well-connected textile combine in neighbouring Jiangsu province.

The plant, whose boss has been lionised by authorities as an outstanding youth entrepreneur, not only used the name Three Hair but registered the cartoon figure as its own trademark.

"We don't want to go to court but we have no other way," lamented Mr Zhang. "We have to protect our own interests."

Even when factory officials came to Shanghai to deny any wrongdoing, they handed out business cards decorated with drawings of Sanmao.

"We have laws but bringing a case is not always easy," said Mr Tao. "Everybody in China knows Three Hair. Any business that uses him as a trademark can make a big impression. But they should pay. They can't just take it."

The government agrees, at least in principle.

China's legal code is suffused with politics but pressure is growing for a more professional and independent system.

"A few years ago, no one bothered about such things," said Mr Zhang. "Now the government is paying more attention. It realises that China has intellectual property worth defending too."

Weapons action delayed as politicians backtrack

Michael Perry

TOUGHER gun laws planned in Victoria will not be in force nationally until at least September, the country's police ministers indicated yesterday.

Even then they may not be uniform or as restrictive as the prime minister, John Howard, has proposed. The softening stance follows the backlash against the laws, which has placed enormous pressure on the rural-based National Party. It shares power in four of the country's six states and is a co-

alition partner in Mr Howard's conservative government.

Mr Howard has already banned the importation of rapid-fire weapons, but it is up to each of the states and the two territories to enact the new gun laws.

Australia's police ministers on May 19 agreed to ban all automatic and semi-automatic weapons, and register firearms. But only Queensland and the small Australian Capital Territory have outlawed rapid-fire weapons. And just two states, Victoria and Tasmania, have introduced legislation into their parliaments to enact the new gun regime, which also includes nationwide registries of firearms.

Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory are drafting laws and will introduce them into parliament over the next few months, while New South Wales is unlikely to pass legislation until the September session of parliament.

Queensland is feeling some of the fiercest opposition to the laws, with gun lobby officials warning of bloodshed. — Reuter.

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Queensland is feeling some of the fiercest opposition to the laws, with gun lobby officials warning of bloodshed. — Reuter.

News in brief

Zulu king goes into hiding

THE Zulu monarch, King Goodwill Zwelithini, has apparently gone into hiding in fear of his life following a recent attack on one of his queens, writes David Beresford in Johannesburg.

The king, who has become something of a political football in a power struggle between the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom Party in KwaZulu-Natal, is thought to be hiding out with Swaziland's royal family. He was spotted in the kingdom at the weekend attending a wedding, and Swazi journalists have been warned not to report his whereabouts.

King Zwelithini's disappearance comes amid a row over his expensive habits.

Last week it was disclosed that South African taxpayers are paying out \$2.5 million a year to maintain the royal households.

His expenses include the salaries of 48 private bodyguards, perhaps understandable following the attack on the home of one of his consorts in April, in which a princess was abducted and subsequently found murdered.

It is a particularly dangerous time for the king — seen by Inkatha as having betrayed the Zulus by identifying with the ANC in the run-up to KwaZulu-Natal's elections on June 26.

The poll has already been postponed once because of political violence.

Singapore plans to link one to all

SINGAPORE has launched a computer project to link government departments with every home, school and business on the island.

The communications minister said the government would spend \$27 million on the Singapore ONE project. Government departments would be connected to high-technology kiosks or "virtual offices" through video-conferencing screens and interactive computer links, where people could pay bills, make inquiries or apply for permits. — Reuter.

Paris mayor faces inquiry

THE mayor of Paris was yesterday accused by a former senior city official, Francois Cloigne, of involvement in a council housing scandal, writes Paul Webster in Paris.

An examining magistrate has demanded new powers for an inquiry, launched last year, into alleged underhand dealings by the ruling Gaullist RPR's elite.

Although the inquiry concerns municipal building, renovation and maintenance contracts for party backers, Jean Tiberi, who succeeded Jacques Chirac as mayor, is also accused of ordering \$200,000 worth of work on a flat for his son, Dominique.

It helps Sara Thornton privately to believe that she stabbed her husband under provocation, one can hardly object; she needs to find peace. For newspapers and programme makers to endorse this interpretation is a different matter.

Catherine Bennett, page 9

Handwritten text: "Catherine Bennett page 9"

US weighs twin strategies on terror

Martin Walker in Washington

THE FBI is carefully tightening the noose around the heavily-armed Freemen militia holed up in a remote Montana ranch for 10 weeks, by cutting off their electricity, pulling back the media and parking armoured cars outside.

Although a helicopter was sent to buzz the farmhouse as the power was cut off this week, the siege is being run as a textbook example of official restraint. The federal police determined not to repeat the mistakes made at the bloody siege of the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, in 1993.

But the larger question of how best to tackle domestic and international security problems is becoming the subject of intense debate in the United States. The kid-glove tactics in Montana stand in sharp contrast to the overkill of the biggest anti-terrorist mobilisation in US history for the Olympic Games in Atlanta next month. Each of the 15,000

athletes will have at least two security staff. The Montana tactics also contrast with the formal unveiling today of the new anti-terror squad of the US marine corps — a 350-strong chemical and biological incident response force. Devised initially to protect US embassies, military bases and other overseas installations, the force is expected to grow and become the expert team to protect US targets against such attacks.

The US now has two competing strategies for responding to terror of the sort it had rarely seen before the bombing of the World Trade Centre and the federal building in Oklahoma City.

On one hand there is the extreme political caution exercised in dealing with the homegrown security challenges. The armoured attack on the Branch Davidian compound provoked widespread condemnation from conservatives. Further criticism came in Congress hearings after the wife and son of a right-wing fundamentalist were shot by FBI agents in a siege at Ruby Ridge, Idaho.

On the other hand, terrorist threats from overseas can expect a massive military response. Over 11,000 US military personnel will be on duty at the Olympics next month, along with 2,500 federal law-enforcement officials, 4,500 state and local police and another 12,000 security staff, most of them policemen from other parts of the US who have volunteered. The security budget for the games stands at \$230 million, more than three times the level for the 1984 games in Los Angeles.

"It's tragic that we have to worry about security at this kind of event, but it's the reality," said security director for the games, former Dallas police chief William Rathburn. The Montana approach and the Olympic overkill have a common political source in the Clinton administration. The vice-president, Al Gore, is in charge of the federal government's task force on the games, from which President Clinton hopes to make political capital. Mr Gore's chief aide on security is the deputy attorney-general, James Gorelick, who is also co-ordinating the handling of the Montana siege.



Promised land... Boat people still head for North America in their thousands, such as these Haitians in 1994, a century and a half after the Irish (right) made their tragic journey to Canada. PHOTOGRAPHS: JOHN STANMEYER AND MARY EVANS

Sea brings hope and hell to the desperate with no future

Dominicans risk all in pursuit of a dream

Island grave for Irish boat people of another era

Phil Gunson in San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic

THEY call it La Bomba, Spanish for "the pump", and you reach it down several miles of dirt tracks through sugarcane fields. It is the latest clandestine departure point for the boat people no one talks about, the so-called *yoleros* of the Dominican Republic. Every year, an estimated 20,000 Dominicans cross the treacherous Mona Passage between the eastern end of the island of Hispaniola — which their country shares with Haiti — and the United States territory of Puerto Rico, a stepping stone on their way to the American mainland.

although most think twice about the dangerous sea crossing. "It can be pretty ugly out there," said Tim Lavire, a US coastguard petty officer in San Juan, Puerto Rico. "Typical weather is 3-5ft seas and, if they've got a load of 60 or more people, they've only got 1ft of freeboard." Yolos, the wooden boats with outboard motors from which the *yoleros* take their name, occasionally flip over while attempting the crossing. Some hold as many as 150 migrants and no one knows how many of them die each year. "Sometimes we hear of incidents but often we get there just too late," said Mr Lavire. In April last year, the coastguard launched Operation Able Response in an attempt to stem the flow. Two cutters now constantly ply the strait looking for *yolos*, while helicopters, C-130 Hercules aircraft and US Customs jets patrol the skies.

The latest technology, including infra-red imaging devices, is used to track the *yolos* at night, when almost all crossings take place. From October to May the US coastguard detained 4,529 *yoleros* in 75 boats, while on land the US border patrol picked up 783.

The Dominican navy, which is responsible for preventing the *yolos* leaving Dominican waters, arrested another 2,768, although local people around La Bomba say naval officers are often bribed by the smugglers who run the trade. "Millions and millions of dollars have passed through places like this because of the traffic in human beings," said a sugarcane worker, gesturing at the scrubland on the edge of the cane fields. "They charge seven or eight thousand pesos (about \$330-350) for the trip but, if it doesn't work, you get a discount next time round. With 125 people on a boat, imagine the profits they're making." Prospective migrants spend days, sometimes weeks, living in the open amid the scrubby bushes, forced to pay whatever price the locals care to charge for food and water. "Fares are paid in advance, but are no guarantee of a place in the boat. If someone else comes along and offers more, the boat captain will take him instead," a local man said. "The last time, about 475 people showed up and a fight broke out."

Colin Nickerson

IN LATE May 1847, the first of the fever ships sailed up the St Lawrence River, laying anchor off the tiny wedge of land the French-Canadian inhabitants of nearby settlements still call "Ile des Irlandais" — the island of the Irish. The Syria was 46 days out of Liverpool, her holds crammed with 241 Irish refugees fleeing famine. Nine were already dead. Scores would soon succumb to the typhus epidemic that had made the transatlantic passage with them. That summer, 221 merchant ships would disgorge thousands of stricken women, children and men — nearly all Irish — into the grim fever sheds of Grosse-Île, a quarantine station 30 miles downriver from Quebec City.

Some believe more than 10,000 famine victims were buried anonymously. "Grosse-Île is the most important Great Famine grave-site in the world," said Michael Quigley, historian for a coalition of Irish-Canadian groups. "The whole island is but a graveyard for the Irish. It is hallowed ground." The Canadian government, winking to the island's tragic significance, recently halted plans to transform Grosse-Île into a theme park celebrating the immigrant experience. Instead, the island will be dedicated as a historic site. "What happened at Grosse-Île is one of the worst tragedies to befall North America," said Sheila Coppa, Canada's former heritage minister. "We need to commemorate those who died." White crosses without names rise from a boggy meadow at the west end of the 444-acre island. A 46ft Celtic cross erected in 1909 bears inscriptions in English, French and Gaelic. The Gaelic inscription speaks of fury at the

English who then ruled Ireland: "Children of the Gael died here in their thousands, having fled the laws of foreign tyrants and an artificial famine. God bless them. God save Ireland." Starting in 1845, a fungal blight destroyed Ireland's potato crop, wiping out the staple food of Irish peasants, who were obliged to hand over their more valuable grain crops to British landlords during the disaster that came to be called the Great Famine. The catastrophe claimed more than 1 million Irish lives and forced millions more to leave for North America. Timber ships returning empty to Canada after unloading their cargo in Britain took the desperate Irish. Filthy and overcrowded, the ships provided ideal incubation conditions for typhus. Ships transporting passengers up the St Lawrence were required to stop at Grosse-Île. It was prepared for the horror of 1847. By the end of May, the newcomers were dying at a rate of 50 a day. Bodies were winched from holds and dumped into pits. In-

fectured people wandered about dying in their tracks, and were buried where they fell. That season, more than 80,000 Irish refugees sailed up the St Lawrence. By some accounts, one of every four immigrants died at Grosse-Île or in Quebec City, Montreal and other ports. Thousands of bodies were dumped at sea. Five Quebec doctors, eight priests and 42 Canadian volunteers also died. Hundreds of Quebec families adopted more than 2,000 Irish orphans, in many cases encouraging them to keep their Irish names. To this day, Irish surnames are found in French-speaking Quebec. Canada's government now plans to restore dilapidated structures on the island. But nothing is likely to summarise Grosse-Île's sad history quite so eloquently as the small marble slab erected in 1847: "In this secluded spot lie the mortal remains of 5,434 persons who, flying from pestilence and famine in Ireland, in the year 1847, found in America but a grave." — Boston Globe.

Clinton backs two years higher education for all

Martin Walker in Washington

SEeking yet again the title of Education President, Bill Clinton yesterday went to the elite university of Princeton to tell some of America's most privileged new graduates of his goal to equip all Americans with at least two years of higher education. This would be at community colleges, which are a cross between a sixth form college and a polytechnic. The two years Mr Clinton now promises would not be sufficient for a college degree, even though the whole thrust of his speech was that a degree was to be the new global economy what the high school diploma had been to the industrial age.

There could hardly have been a more glaring contrast between his Princeton audience, where the cost of tuition, room and board next year will be \$28,326 (£19,000), and the state-run community colleges, where tuition costs less than \$3,000 a year. The president's speech barely addressed the main concern of the new Princeton graduates, which is their average debt of over \$50,000 under the college loan schemes. Twenty years ago, grants financed 80 per cent of college fees, and loans took care of the rest. This year, loans account for 60 per cent of college cost for 60 per cent of college students, and four years of education at the expensive private colleges like Harvard, Yale and Princeton can lead to a total bill of \$100,000. "A college education is an investment not just in the future of another American citizen, but an investment in America itself," Mr Clinton said. "We all know it makes sense."

Although sold as a big policy statement by the White House, Mr Clinton's speech represented a retreat from his campaign rhetoric of 1992, when he promised to so expand the college loans programme that every qualified American school-leaver would have a right to go to college and get a degree. This year's scheme is all his budget can afford after the Republican Congress whittled away his plans. Mr Clinton offered a new transferable grant of \$1,500 to every school-leaver to help pay for their two years, which would cost \$7.9 billion over six years. This would be financed by a new tax on international travellers using US airports, and by the sale of broadcast frequencies. The White House has been nervously awaiting a big speech from Robert Dole, with promises of sweeping tax cuts to galvanise his presidential campaign. Instead, Mr Dole has been sounding oddly like Mr Clinton this week, insisting at his own graduation address at Galandet and other colleges that education is one part of public spending that he thoroughly supports.

News in brief

Democratic test for Croatia

THE Council of Europe has set Croatia five conditions for admission to the organisation. A document to be sent to Zagreb today, calls for concrete steps "as rapidly as possible" on all five points before Croatia can be admitted. The 39-country council froze the process on May 14 in protest at actions by President Franjo Tudjman. Croatia is told to hand over war crimes suspects, facilitate free elections in Bosnia, allow the return of Serb refugees, drop prosecutions against the independent media and allow the opposition-controlled Zagreb council to elect a mayor. — Reuters.

Israeli PM in security talks

The winner and loser of Israel's election met yesterday for the first time since last week's vote, to discuss the security issues over which the campaign was fought. The prime minister, Shimon Peres, and his successor, Benjamin Netanyahu, shook hands in the presence of reporters and vowed to co-operate on the transfer of power. — Reuters.

Islands tension

Friktion between the South Pacific neighbours Papua New Guinea and the Solomons has flared after a Papua New Guinea patrol boat, in pursuit of suspected rebels, crossed into Solomons territory and fired on a Solomons village. — Reuters.

'Plotters' held

Bahrain arrested 44 people in connection with an alleged pro-Iranian plot to overthrow the government. — Reuters.

Weighty studies

That students will soon have one of their burdens eased. The education ministry is imposing weight limits on the satchels they carry to and from school. — AP.

Timor arrest

Indonesian police in Kupang, western Timor, arrested a man they had been chasing for two years following allegations he bit the penises of at least five young schoolboys, the official Antara news agency reported. — Reuters.

New Angolan army to end UN peacekeeping

Victoria Brittain in Luanda

THE Angolan military leadership has started to form a unified national army to bring to an end the United Nations peacekeeping process. The move comes as the political leaders try to shape a new government following the dismissal of the prime minister, the government and the central bank governor by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos. Fernando Francis van Dunem, the national assembly president appointed as prime minister to replace Marcelino Moco, has until the end of this week to pick a cabinet. As the political crisis was erupting on Monday, the first 15 officers from Jonas Savimbi's Unita guerrilla army were being incorporated into the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) and the process of selecting 25,000 Unita soldiers for the army was beginning under a two-month deadline set by the FAA chief of staff, General Joao de Matos.

Gen Matos said the new army would be complete by July 30. "At that point the state administration will be restored over the whole country. We are tired of this peace process, it's been going on too long. The country is in a morass, the people are exhausted, the international community has had enough. So much money is being wasted by the UN," he said. Within the UN there is growing concern about the credibility of its largest peacekeeping operation, costing more than \$1 million (£650,000) a day. At least half of the 35,000 Unita men registered in the 11 UN quartering areas are not soldiers, according to UN and aid officials. One third of them came without weapons, according to Gen Matos. In addition, no heavy weapons of any sort have been handed in, the munitions remaining are derisory and new arms supplies are regularly being flown in by Unita from Zaire, he said. A UN official said: "Unita has not even begun a serious effort towards disarming and

demobilising, 18 months after the Lusaka accords, and there is no sign of any change in their attitudes." The mood among both UN and aid agency personnel is pessimistic, despite the robust optimism of the UN secretary-general's special representative, Aiyoun Blomfin Beye. He believes the problem of non-surrendered weapons will be rectified by Unita, and does not accept that there is any problem with the identities of the people already quartered. General Philip Sibanda, the Zimbabwean military commander of the UN force, said, however: "It is clear we do not have the best troops in the quartering areas, we do not have the best weapons, we do not have ammunition or other war stores, explosives, communications equipment." Last year's ceasefire left Unita in control of over half the country, though some areas are barely populated. Gen Matos said the UN could not monitor what was going on in Unita areas, or where the soldiers outside the quartering areas were being kept.

Summertime blues

The Government goes from bad to worse

NEARLY a year after his "put up or shut up" resignation as Tory leader, John Major has taken the Conservative Party on the long route back to square one. His admirers will point out that he has survived for another 12 months, which at one stage did not seem possible. Yet this morning's Guardian-ICM poll reveals a Tory party that is still 15 points behind Labour even on the adjusted figures, and much more than that on every unadjusted index. As a yardstick of Mr Major's achievements since last June, it is distinctly underwhelming. The Conservatives have entered the final year of their administration falling to dent Labour's lead, unable to rally support behind their principal policies, heading into an uncertain summer over Europe and Ireland and, unless they can get a grip on events, facing almost certain general election defeat. It all adds up to a duff government, whose middle-ranking ministers are increasingly more preoccupied with positioning themselves for the succession contest than with defeating Tony Blair.

Give or take the odd monthly polling blip, attributable to Emma Nicholson or to the South-East Staffordshire byelection effect, the Conservatives remain almost exactly where they were after Mr Major forced the leadership issue last year. In the context of spring 1995 that meant that the slide was brought to an end. The problem now is that electoral slide has been replaced by electoral stasis. Since last summer Mr Major has tried everything to rein in the Labour lead but without effect. The latest throw, the non-cooperation strategy in Europe over the beef ban, has been just as ineffectual as everything else that preceded it. Tory MPs who are predisposed to think well of populist Europhobia are naturally adamant that the country is fizzing with enthusiasm for their cause. The reality, as our poll

shows, is that this is self-delusion of a very high order. For every voter who is more inclined to vote Tory as a result of Mr Major's lurch against Europe (and only a handful are), 28 are not. Even among Tory voters, the policy provokes a four-to-one negative effect. Such a situation benefits neither Britain nor the Conservatives. It is becoming urgent that Mr Major finds his way into an end-game in the beef battle.

Yet it is not easy to see how he will do it. June may well turn out a much more destructive month for the standing of the Government than has yet been fully appreciated. In less than a week, the Northern Ireland strategy — the one more or less untarnished achievement of the Government — may lie in ruins. And it is almost impossible to see where the European strategy can now productively lead. Every week that passes brings the non-cooperation strategy more conspicuously into discredit. Last week, aid and the single market; this week, Michael Howard's dozen veto; next week, with a scheduled general affairs ministerial council, the list lengthens further. Nothing has been achieved that could not have been better secured by less disruptive means, while much has been lost which we can ill afford to be without. Paradoxically, the attention now being paid to each European ministerial meeting only underlines the useful, untrumped benefits which the EU brings (and which British non-cooperation is upsetting). Every week that passes brings diminishing and opposite returns to those which the Government intended. The prospect that Britain will disrupt the Florence summit in less than three weeks is increasingly politically unappealing. The nearer we get the more small-minded and silly it looks, and the less principled or proud. An easy summer for the Government? Its troubles are only just beginning.

Putting safety first — at last

The Hillsborough case will reduce risks at public events

BEREAVED families of the Hillsborough stadium disaster have every reason to feel affronted. Many grieving relatives of the 96 people killed by the crush of fans at the Sheffield Wednesday stadium in 1989 have received no compensation. Others have been awarded paltry sums by the courts ranging from £2,000 to £7,000 for losing sons, daughters, or parents. Yet now 14 police officers, who suffered psychological damage rescuing victims, have been awarded £1.2 million in damages — ranging from £10,000 to £200,000 per officer. In the words of Trevor Hicks, chairman of the Hillsborough Families Support Group, who lost two teenage daughters in the disaster: "These officers chose to be police officers. We did not choose to be victims..." The award at the door of the Sheffield High Court carries all the defects of such out-of-court settlements: doubt over the principles on which the award was made; dire warnings by police chiefs on the repercussions on their budgets; and the danger that the decision could open a floodgate of claims from other emergency service officers. A lawyer-directed damages system is always going to be more arbitrary than a no-fault compensation scheme advocated years ago by a royal commission.

Yet, as our exclusive interview with one of the officers demonstrated yesterday, the award is not as arbitrary as it might seem. There are three obvious grounds on which police officers could seek compensation: their personal inju-

ries involving post-traumatic stress; their loss of earnings and reduced pension rights (five of the 14 having had to leave the police); and the mismanagement of the South Yorkshire police, Sheffield Wednesday FC and the club's engineers. Contrary to the views of Mr Hicks, in the eyes of the law the police officers had less choice than the fans. As disciplined officers, they had no choice but to accept their posting to patrol the football ground. At least the fans could have chosen not to go. There is one heartening part of the award in terms of public interest: the decision by the chief constable of South Yorkshire, on the advice of his service's insurers, to admit liability. With luck, this could transform the attitude of the service to policing private and public events. Until now, the police have been patently always ready to provide what traditionally has always been done. After this week, police chiefs are going to be more rigorous about the safety standards of events which they are asked to police. There are already officers — including architectural liaison officers — who are supposed to assess the safety of such events. Now they are going to have to be more professional about assessing dangers. Senior officers will be asking more awkward questions. It should not have needed a Hillsborough to force football clubs, with their multi-million pound turnovers, to pay more attention to the safety of fans. This week's award will force them to be more responsible.

Hitting the jackpot first time

Camelot may be efficient, but it is hardly generous

BY ANY business criterion, the National Lottery is an astonishing success. It sprang from nowhere to achieve sales of £5.2 billion in its first full year — over 25 per cent better than the highest forecasts made by the eight lottery applicants in 1994. Has any other company in British business history ever done so well? Over £1.41 billion was raised for good causes and £677 million paid in taxes. This will finance countless capital projects — from the Tate's Bankside gallery to village halls across the country — forming all in all the most lasting monument of John Major's tenure as prime minister (Mrs Thatcher eschewed such "state gambling").

Instead of applause, Camelot has run into criticism because of high profits of £77 million (less than one per cent of sales) in its first full year with bonuses of up to £120,000 for its directors. Quite rightly too. Camelot has no legal obliga-

tion to give away its profits and it claims anyway that the £500,000 allocated for its first year already puts it into the top 30 UK corporate donors to charity. But that is not the point. It has a strong moral obligation to do so. First, as a new company in a new era of corporate responsibility it should set standards. Second, although it won the contract against fierce competition, it is a monopoly and ought to be sensitive to accusations of monopoly profits. Third, a company so totally dependent on good causes for its very existence ought to be setting its own agenda for corporate donations. If it rejects these arguments, then for public relations reasons alone a huge increase in charitable donations would have been priceless in defusing an inevitable public outcry. For a start, Camelot should atone by adopting one of its own techniques — by rolling over a large slice of last year's profits to be given away this year. With bonuses.



Letters to the Editor

Jack's gang takes on the woolly liberals

YOUR editorial (A curfew on commonsense, June 3) missed the point. It is commonsense that young children left unsupervised, especially at night, are vulnerable and at risk. If parents are unable or unwilling to protect them, then "society" must step in. We get calls to our charity from parents of children bullied by gangs of eight- and nine-year-olds in their own neighbourhoods. These parents keep their own children in but say that the other children are out at all hours and are out of control.

I have seen children out at night on Queensway in London grabbing handbags from every foreign visitor and have myself been targeted by eight-year-olds who attempted to pickpocket me at 10pm. Some of these children have been recruited by drug dealers and thieves. They are the victims of neglect and for the rest of us to pretend it isn't happening and to ignore the problem is intolerable in a caring society.

What you have done is to exaggerate and misrepresent the whole idea of curfews to discredit it — children become "young people", "black" people automatically will be victims, and you facetiously bring in the Rio de Janeiro police to annihilate the kids. At least Jack Straw is trying to protect children. (Dr) Michele Elliott, Director, Kidscape, 182 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9TR.

JACK Straw's claim (Letters, June 4) that his proposal is "a policy for child protection" is Orwellian gobbledegook. It also captures the reversal evident in much recent child-protection policy, which can be traced to the media coverage of the Bulger case and the Government's knee-jerk policy response of "back to basics". Children have become the focus of a moral panic. Media presentations have transformed them from the "sugar and spice" angels of an earlier social construct into inherently evil demons who, typifying Britain's declining moral standards, seem incapable of distinguishing right from wrong. In this process the notion of "child protection" has become sadly distorted.

Instead of policies to protect children in the community, politicians and some sections of the media prefer to promote policies to protect the community from children. Straw's proposal is profoundly undemocratic and denies children and young people rights which we, as adults, take to be central to living in a civil community.

Bob Franklin, Dept of Sociological Studies, University of Sheffield, Northumbria Road, Sheffield S10 2TU.

I AM pleased to see there are some knee-jerk-reactionary, woolly-minded liberals reading the Guardian and not just writing your leader columns.

It must give you great succour. The fact is that there is a problem of youth disorder on our streets, and it is growing year on year. Neither you, nor your correspondents yesterday, offer any sort of solution. I do not know whether curfews would help to cut crime and disorder, but that is what pilot schemes are for, as Jack Straw says. Your hysterical reaction does the paper a disservice. Stephen Doherty, 21 Petersfield Rise, London SW15 4AE.

IT IS difficult to be certain whether Jack Straw is serious about his curfew plan, as the details he has given us appear to show an escape route for a future Labour Home Secretary in the proposed consultation with local authorities. He is probably playing politics in attempting to emphasise that New Labour is based on a set of values, one of which, the exercise of personal responsibility, has been hopelessly understated by the left for over 20 years.

This is an admirable aim but I would ask whether Jack Straw is any good at doing this. He might be more credible if he were to speak more in general terms of the need for personal responsibility and the exercise of civic duty rather than continually pulling these spectacular and unsettling rabbits out of hats. Martin Hutchinson, 48 Archers Avenue, Stirling FK7 7JZ.

YOUR criticisms of Jack Straw's proposal are unwarranted and mistaken. Few people believe that young children should be on the streets until 11pm. It is disgraceful that this situation has been allowed to escalate under the Conservatives. Labour aims to act in the true interests of children and the wider community. Not to do so would be an abdication of our responsibility. If Labour was aping the Tories, it would be doing nothing. David-John Collins, Station Road, Groombridge, Tunbridge Wells TN3 9GX.

COULD somebody please give me a convincing reason why the Conservative, and now the Labour, parties are so fascinated by the American methods of dealing with crime? Just what is the sense in using as a role-model a country which has turned to populist methods of dealing with anti-social behaviour because it's been unable to implement ways of creating greater national social cohesion?

If we must see another country's policies, at least please select ones which are swerving from positives, such as consistently low crime rates, successful policies of handling young people, and sustained communities. We could be looking within Europe, instead of to the US. Hilary Legard, 53 Harwood Road, London SW6.

HAS Mr Straw not noticed that in the last 17 years, while the number of juveniles involved in crime and the costs of following up and dealing with it have escalated, the youth services have been almost completely destroyed on the altar of cutting public expenditure? Why are the public never informed of the enormous public expenditure on following up and punishing the miscreants — not just once but again and again and again? I J Gibson, Woodlands, 1a Pultney Street, Ullapool, Ross-shire IV26 2UP.

I LAST experienced a curfew as a teenager in Copenhagen during the occupation (1940-45). It was entirely counterproductive and the idea will lose Jack Straw more voters than he may gain. Eva Rogers, Midsummer Place, 66 Meids Causeway, Cambridge CB5 8DD.

TO the psychologist Carl Jung, the "shadow" was the repressive side of the psyche which got projected onto whole groups of human beings, who then became scapegoats for wider social failure. In the case of Jack Straw, our "shadow home secretary", the terms could not be more apt. Roger Moody, 218 Liverpool Road, London N1 1LE.



Happy hour

THE Government is proposing to extend the opening hours for public houses by one hour on Friday and Saturday evenings (Extra hour for drinkers at weekend, May 31). Why just one hour? Why only Fridays and Saturdays? Given the more irregular working patterns in a modern economy, it would make more sense to propose complete deregulation. This would also resolve the problem of nuisance and disorder that results from pubs ejecting cus-

tomers at the same closing times. For people worried about alcohol problems, I would point out that past experience of liberalisations has revealed a concomitant reduction in the number and severity of alcohol problems and a deregulation would boost the economy, by permitting an extension of trade that is currently outlawed. It would remove the interference with personal liberty which prevents people from taking a drink when they want one. Danny Frederick, 1 Moyne Place, London NW10 7EN.

What price the trauma of the rest of us?

IT IS difficult to describe the complexity of my responses to the harrowing testament of David Frost, an officer at the Hillsborough disaster, and his large compensation award (Front page, June 4). David, my heart goes out to you. But I was nearby, and I saw things that, like you, turned my stomach. And I don't just mean the corpses.

Some of the police that day were heroes. But the fact that you were led by donkeys was obvious to any supporter. Donkeys with an utter contempt for the supporters under their care. This injustice was compounded by outrageous slander on the supporters who you now praise, and a stone wall of silence from those who knew the truth. Like you, David, How we needed you back then, when Kevin Mackenzie was busy calling Liverpool fans "scum". The very fans who had ripped up advertising hoardings to stretcher the

dying and dead, while many police looked on, unable to act against orders. Imagine what that would have done to your own post-traumatic stress.

How many alcoholics has it made in Liverpool? How many marriages has it broken up? And what do we pay my teenage cousin, a veteran of the Leppings Lane, if he still can't sleep at night? Of all the sickening flashbacks I still get, one remains most poignant. After it was all over, and fans like myself were being herded out by mounted policemen, there was an ominous hush. Suddenly, a Liverpool fan began bleating like a sheep. Soon there was a macabre cacophony of farmyard noises played out for the silent police, watching like farmers taking animals to slaughter. The essential truth of that fan's observation still haunts me, and is borne out by these huge police damages. When the farmer suffers doing his

job, we subsidise him better. For the lowly animals from Liverpool who paid to watch a game of football, there were only ever two options. Comfort or slaughter. Stephen McGeehan, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11.

THOSE of us who stood on the Leppings Lane terrace on that tragic day have little sympathy for the police. We remember that for 10 or so crucial minutes they prevented fans from escaping the pen by pushing them back and by refusing to open the gate your picture shows so vividly open. We then suffered the extra trauma of being accused by the Sun of not only causing the deaths of our fellow fans but of robbing and passing on their bodies. Compensation: a refund on the ticket price. 53 Downing Court, Liverpool L7 3QP.

No shadows after dark

I HAVE noticed, while travelling to work, that the Guardian letters page is increasingly plagued by shadow ministers' letters. An imaginative approach would be to impose a curfew and limit shadow ministers' letters to Saturday mornings.

Of course, some shadow ministers would be forced into expressing their opinions in other forums, such as their constituency parties, where they might face hostility and ridicule. Nevertheless, this is at root a policy for their protection, since it will encourage them to think before they write to the papers. (Prof) Paul Brickell, 35 Godwin Road, London E7 0LF.

YOU report (June 3) David Evans MP as saying, over the Rod Richards resignation: "People who accept high office, a minister of the crown, wear an England shirt." Eh? In the context of the resignation of a Welsh Office minister from the British government? Dave Hewitt, 170 Sandfield Road, Glasgow G5.

THERE has been some discussion of the most boring headline in your recent letters pages. I cannot remember if it was yourselves or one of your competitors who published, some years ago, the headline "Political crisis in Andorra". Surely this would win by a mile. T M Hall, 47 Cedars Road, London SW4 0PN.

Roy on Roy

ROY HATTERSLEY has worked himself into a fine old tizz over my TV portrait of Roy Jenkins. A Very Social Democrat (Endpiece, June 3). He would do a greater service to politics — and journalism — if he had not distorted the programme out of recognition to suit his argument. He claims that "we heard nothing of Jenkins's restless political ideology". Not true. There was, for instance, a lengthy section in the film where Jenkins talked about his libertarian political beliefs. Hattersley further claims that we ignored Jenkins's contribution to levering the Labour Party back to the centre-ground.

Yet we had Jenkins specifically saying: "Without the shock of the SDP, the Labour Party would have gone on making itself into a remote sect and advocating increasingly out-of-the-way politics." Michael Cockerell, Political Documentaries, BBC Westminster, 4 Millbank, London SW1P 3JQ.

A Country Diary

HARTLAND TO BUDE: Pink thrift and dazzling yellow gorse are intermixed on the cliff edge, high above a roaring sea. Creamy spume is driven onto boulder beaches and wisps of it whirl up the cliffs in eddies. This stretch of coast, running south from Hartland Point, takes the full brunt of westerly winds. Hedgerow trees in the sparsely-populated hinterland are severely stunted, shrinking away from prevailing weather and, along the coast, natural vegetation hugs the ground. Short streams, with headwaters rising just west of those flowing to the Tamar and Torridge, have cut out deep valleys, often with rocky gorges and waterfalls before the shore. The coastal path climbs and plunges precipitously up and down between cliffs, many looming more than 400 feet above the narrow valley mouths. After a bus ride to Hartland, we walk through bluebell woods on a muddy path strewn with Hawthorn petals, past the land-

mark of Stoke's tall church tower to an isolated ruin, and then on the coastal path to Bude, more than 12 miles south. Clifftop fields are green after a fortnight's rain, contrasting with the bald cliffs of folded strata, sheer rock slabs and crumbling, slipping earth. Coastal valleys have remarkable flowery vernal sculleries with pale blue daisies and liverly-pink thrift. White bladder campion, fragrant burnet roses and tussocks of thrift cling to rocky outcrops and, on damp sites, primroses and violets are still flowering after an exceptionally late cold spring. Drifts of bluebells and uncurtiled ferns grow amongst dwarf thickets of sloe, bramble, ivy and honeysuckle, which harbour boisterous wrens and blackcaps. On the last lap, south from Morwenstow, we are overlooked by the huge, white dishes and spheres of the incongruous listening station. VIRGINIA SPIERS

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سكتة من اجل

Diary

Matthew Norman

PORTENTOUS news from the world of opinion-furnishing: Taki-George Theridiculous is to give up his Sunday Times gossip column. He took the decision, we gather, after a lengthy chat with Ibrahim Khan (they met at Khan's wedding to Je-mima, where the Cypriot was on Bucks Flz duty), but the detail is sketchy. "He's had enough," is all a T-G insider will say about a move that comes less than half-way through a contract that binds him until December; rumour has it, however, that he has concluded that gossip is too trivial for one of his intellect. In his short notice at the Sunday Times, Taki-George has broken far too many scoops to mention, while close students will argue among themselves as to which was his finest. Some will favour the account of Rupert Floppingstein-Chump-Birdbrath's 50th birthday party in Klosters, at which the Countess Schuzkyzys von Spyzzyz chipped a fingernail. Others will cite the revelation (shortly before the News of the World ran five lurid pages) that his friend Johnny Bryan will never sell his story. Whichever, the Nicosan tray-bearer will be grievously missed.

AROW erupts in cyberspace between John Diamond, Emeritus Professor of E-mailology at the University of Web (formerly Web Polytechnic), and a woman eager to found a "site" for her fellow Jewish hacks. The professor's anger at what he sees as self-ghettoisation has driven him to break into Yiddish. For those interested, the debate is being conducted on CompuServe. Applications to join the on-line Jewish Journalists Guild to its founder, Josephine Bacon.

IN response to the report here about how a woman journalist has become besotted with the "taut thighs of Mandy Mandelson MP", as unleashed on the disco after she arrives from London. "This is as no surprise to those of us who were at the Young Labour disco at conference last year," writes someone with an illegible signature (Kieran Simpson?). "Mandy's disco-dancing skills were clearly delighting several young members dancing around in Brighton." First Mandy's babysitter writes in, now his dance partners... Who ever next? One of the Korean businessmen he met during his Barclays-sponsored trip to boost Oriental trade links with Harlepool, perhaps?

IN the race to become Britain's first brand-named train station, Wembley Central takes an early lead. Privatised station owner North London Railways admits that several anonymous firms show an interest, reports the Wembley Observer. Denying rumours that Wembley Carlsberg (the lager company is a sponsor at Euro 96) is imminent, commercial director Bryan Leaker declares: "Any name change would have to have customer benefit. What the hell does this mean?"

IN a feature on post-election job prospects for Tory MPs in marginal seats, careers consultant John Stork is bullish about Gyles Brandreth. "There's lots going on for him," he says - and so there is. In addition to Brandreth's Brainstorm, his weekly page of puzzles (Who's the odd one out: Hitler, Stalin, Lulu or Pol Pot?) in OBI Magazine, we stumble upon his "Prize Crossword" in Dogs Today, which until recently was the home of the astrologer Jack Russell Grant. Six Across: "Breed chosen by singers Jarvis and Joe (6.7)". Still, it's good to see him keeping busy. Just so long as his constituency duties aren't interfering.

THE march of crime continues in South Africa, where the office of cabinet minister Pik Botha was burgled last week. Computers, a TV set, a microwave, decanters and even an old kettle were nicked. The thieves' task was simplified by the absence of Mr Botha's security chief at the energy ministry. He has been in custody since December, when he was arrested for theft.



Love and death in an impure world

Commentary Catherine Bennett

LESS than a week since her conviction for manslaughter and subsequent release were extensively reported, Sara Thornton has returned to public notice - as cover-girl in the Independent newspaper. Her familiar features, graced with her now equally celebrated "goddess stone", introduce two instalments of love letters which Thornton wrote from prison to a man called George Delf. The pen-pals are pictured grinning in a tree and posing in a park. And the letters? They illustrate what we already know: that Thornton is intelligent, articulate, and convinced that her husband's death was not her fault.

The only surprise here is Mr Delf, who wrote to Thornton in August 1990, and offered to help her, if he could. Within a month or so, we discover, the two were on mobile-kissing terms. "Dear Sara, write, when I get out, you can kiss all my other moles!" Other comments

relate to her case. "I am not nuts, and I never was," she writes - an assertion which sounds a little strange after her recent defence of diminished responsibility on account of a personality disorder called "dissociation". Thornton was unable to give evidence at her retrial, it was explained by her counsel, because of this very disorder. "Dissociation has not, however, prevented Sara Thornton from informing the Independent that 'Malcolm and I were a disaster waiting to happen'." Clearly concerned that four pages of letters might not be enough, Sara Thornton, the Independent cleared more space for an interview in which she is introduced as "a tortured soul in search of peace". Here, Thornton's explanation for not giving evidence is that she had talked about the killing so much that "I honestly do not think I could have given a true account...". Her interviewer is sympathetic: "She is someone who needs a hug." Lest her bugaboo be in any doubt, the interview is illustrated by yet another picture of Ms Thornton, looking forlorn in her "Victims of Injustices" t-shirt.

The Thornton/Delf correspondence, which will shortly be published by Penguin as Love On The Wing: Letters Of Hope From Prison, has long been introduced to the public as someone we can readily compre-

hend: an abused woman first, and a killer second. Her case was adopted and publicised by the pressure group, Justice for Women, in its mission to make the defence of "slow burn" provocation available to battered women who face a murder charge. In the cases of Emma Humphreys, who had been repeatedly brutalised and raped by a vicious pimp, and of Kiranjit Ahluwalia, who endured a decade of assaults and rapes by her husband, the JFW campaign was well supported by the evidence. It was clear that both women had been abominably treated by a judicial system which has been consistently harsher to provoked woman than to provoked men.

But Thornton's story is too ambiguous to bolster the defence of cumulative provocation: indeed, the retrial judge sentenced her on the basis that "abnormality of mind" rather than provocation, had diminished her responsibility. So what can we learn from the case of Sara Thornton? Not much, except that a pair of unpredictable, occasionally violent, heavy drinkers should avoid living together. Or, more importantly, that the mandatory life sentence for murder is absurd, taking no account of the fact that every murder is different, and that not all murderers deserve lengthy incarceration.

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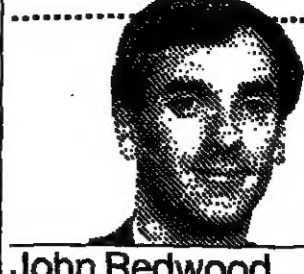
But this cannot satisfy Sara Thornton's supporters. "As

far as we are concerned, it's still a major victory," said a representative of Justice for Women last week. In other words, because their campaign for a retrial was based on provocation, and because Sara Thornton won her retrial, her case is still to be claimed as a victory for women victims of male battering, and thus, for women in general, oppressed as we all must be by institutionalised male violence.

If it helps Sara Thornton privately to believe that she stabbed her comatose husband under provocation, one can hardly object: she needs, as the Independent says, to find peace. For newspapers and programme-makers to endorse this interpretation is a different matter. Already, regardless of the judge's comments, she is beginning to acquire martyr status.

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Jobs for the people, not for the boys



John Redwood

THERE is a crisis in the European Union. Not the ordinary common or garden constitutional crisis, regularly provoked by those who want to turn single market into single government whilst pretending that it's those who want no change who are wrecking the place. This time there's a real crisis. There's a crisis in many families, where men and women have lost their jobs. There's a crisis in German economic performance, where the biggest ever public-spending cuts are being made. There's a crisis in Spain, where one in four are out of work. There's a crisis in France, where people have taken to the streets in protest at government economic policies. There's a crisis in the meat trades in Germany. It is these issues politicians in western Europe should be tackling.

The UK wants a single market, not a single government for Europe. That is a respectable position. It is an honest position. It is what we thought we had signed up to. It is what the British people voted for in a referendum. It is the only position that could bring about a peaceful and prosperous Europe.

Sir Colin Marshall, the new CBI president, spoke for many of us when he rejected the idea that we should pull out of Europe, and rejected the idea that we wanted to join a new federal state. He pointed out that we still do not have a properly working single market. It is still badly distorted by subsidies and other restrictions on trade. There are still large areas where the competition heralded in the Treaty of Rome has yet to be introduced. There is work to be done to get Europe working better.

The immediate problems to be resolved lie in the beef and fishing industries. European action, ostensibly to restore confidence in beef, has served to undermine it further across the continent. German butchers are even more likely to lose their jobs than British ones. The ban must be lifted, allied to sensible measures to ensure that BSE declines and that affected meat does not get into the food chain. That should not be difficult. It certainly does not require the slaughter of millions of healthy cattle. The British government is right to take its case around the capitals of Europe. It should stress to them how damaged their own industries are by the EU action so far.

The British fishing industry is being badly damaged by the Common Fisheries Policy. The practice of throwing dead fish back into the sea because they do not conform with regulations must stop. It must be replaced by controls on net size. Quota hopping must stop. Spanish vessels should not take British quota, preventing our fishermen fishing in our own waters.

Why is there so much unemployment in Europe? It is the direct result of the social policy and the single-currency policy. The Social Chapter is widely recognised as an engine of unemployment. If government sets too high a price for labour, less will be hired. Even John Prescott knows that. A kindness for the lower paid becomes a cruelty to them. They discover it is better to have a lower-paid job, with prospects of something better, than having no job because the minimum wage is too high. Countries that have adopted minimum-wage laws have had to relax them gradually for various groups like students, as the jobs all dry up otherwise.

Less widely understood is how the single currency has become the prime engine of unemployment. The Treaty of Maastricht laid down requirements to join the single currency which have become the main guides for most governments' economic policies. They took no account whatsoever of unemployment or economic growth. They were all about tight money, exchange rates, interest rates, budget deficits and inflation. They were a reformulation of the Exchange Rate Mechanism, blown apart by the markets because it became a doomsday machine for many economies.

TAKE the case of France. She has maintained too high an exchange rate, making it more and more difficult for her to export successfully. Factories have closed as a result. She has maintained high real rates of interest, making it more difficult for businesses there to invest. She has tried to cut her budget deficit by cutting public spending. It may prove impossible to do so, unless growth picks up. It is easy to enter the vicious circle: cut public spending, depress economic growth, unemployment rises, pushing up public spending and lowering tax receipts. This requires another round of spending cuts or tax increases, which depresses growth more and costs jobs.

Britain should set out how we can have a single market that works. A programme to deliver jobs to the peoples of western Europe which wins more sympathy than further programmes for the aggravation of the political classes.

This is the first contribution to an occasional series on approaches to Europe

Despite the spectacular failure of Ariane 5, the space race will continue at an ever-more-furious pace, argues Tim Radford. Vast fortunes beckon the players

Billion-dollar hiccup

TEN years ago, US, British and European scientists dreamed up a set of space probes and set the controls for the heart of the Sun. Yesterday a 25 billion-worth of energy and kick starts atmospheric circulation, the hydrological cycle, and plant growth every day, everywhere in the world. The idea was simple: to find out how the local star worked, why it had spots and why it had 11-year cycles.

By the time engineers in French Guiana were ready to launch yesterday, part of the research was already in place. There was already a satellite called Sobo, in orbit in a kind of gravitational hammock called a Lagrangian point (where the pull of Earth and Sun cancel each other), watching the Sun 24 hours a day. The Americans had inaugurated Gong, short for Global Oscillation Network Group, to "listen in" to seismic waves in the Sun. The British had also just turned on Cluster, a Collaborative Twin Location Aurora Sounding System, to learn more about the northern lights: another pyrotechnic effect of the Sun's rays. And the star turn was to be Cluster: 500 million in all to build, launch and operate four identical satellites that would orbit in formation in the solar wind, monitoring the hot breath of the heavens.

As British space scientists point out, when the Sun sneezes, the Earth catches a cold. Sudden surges of solar power can screw up radio-communications, shut down television and navigation sat-



ellites and short-circuit power grids. Each time this happens, the cost runs into hundreds of millions. Cluster was on board Ariane 5 because it was, in effect, a cheap ride. Yesterday's launch was to have been a test flight instead of ballast, it carried a scientific experi-

ment. Experimenters used to make satellites in pairs, with a spare in case the first one went wrong. But today's experiments are so complex, and so expensive, that research budgets could not stand the duplication. And anyway, since 1968 the European space engineers have

taken 14 consecutive science experiments and lobbed them into perfect orbit. Cluster would have been the 15th. And it was aboard Europe's giant new, ultra-heavy-duty space truck originally to do duty as part of Europe's ambitions for manned flight, and Europe's contribution in the

international space station - itself a grandiose cold-war project that echoed 2001: A Space Odyssey. Britain, then and now, did not want to get involved in manned flight. The cold war ended, the space station underwent a series of metamorphoses and is now a multinational partnership led by the US and Russia, and Ariane 5 turned into a different kind of rocket: one designed to catch a bigger share of the satellite-launch market. Its predecessor, Ariane 4, had put around 100 bits of hardware into orbit, but Europe needed a giant because satellites are becoming bigger, and so are ambitions in space. Ariane 5 was designed to kick seven tons of payload up to a speed of five miles a second.

It was designed for a growing market. The Russians and the Americans dominate it, but the Chinese have ambitions and Europe, too, has always wanted part of the action. Networks of satellites will provide hundreds of channels of television from Irkutsk to Indianapolis, and satellite phone links from Finstock to Timaru. Air-traffic controllers, shipping operators and Arctic explorers can place themselves to within 50 metres using global-positioning satellites. Earth-resource satellites are finding buried rivers in Rajasthan, warning of drought in Africa, and - using radar which can identify crop reflections - spotting massive farm frauds in Europe.

The investment will go on: the world now needs instruments in space just to keep itself in business. Even Britain has made a tiny promise of investment in Ariane 5. Yesterday's explosion will be seen as a hiccup. The experiment on board - ironically launched in the year of the Challenger disaster which took seven astronaut lives, but research won't stop. Keep watching that space.

Small earthquake in Albania

As an election monitor in eastern Europe, Anthony Daniels has been beaten and jailed. Yet, he says, democracy is at work

THE British Helsinki Human Rights Group, of which I am a member, has observed elections in many formerly communist countries. They were all declared free and fair by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) - all, that is, until the recent Albanian elections. Why the OSCE should have decided to draw the line at Albania is unclear. After all, it saw democratic in Georgia when there was but a single presidential candidate, there were masked gunmen outside the polling booths and our delegation was protected by the KGB in its hotel from other gunmen

on an upper floor. It found nothing wrong in Azerbaijan when one of our members actually succeeded in casting a vote in the elections (for the winning candidate, of course) or nothing wrong when one of our members was assaulted during a count of ballots in Ukraine; or nothing wrong in Armenia, when the main opposition party was banned outright. Indeed, it openly demanded of its election observers that they find three positive points to say about the elections. By these standards, the elections in Albania were free and fair. So why has the OSCE been so damning about them?

All the elections mentioned above took place in countries which were economic basket cases. Albania, by contrast, appears to be thriving (relatively speaking, of course). And if there's one thing the official mind hates, it is a sign that people are getting on with their lives unassisted by officialdom. Many of the election observers in Albania were without axes to grind. Others were Albanologists who trained at a time when a profound interest in things Albanian usually denoted a certain ideological sympathy with the late Enver Hoxha. As for the press reporting of the elections, it is sad to note that the withdrawal of the main opposition party at 6 o'clock in the evening, after exit polls had suggested a victory for the government party, went entirely unremarked; by withdrawing from the elec-

tions at so late a stage, it made possible the very fraud of which it later complained.

Of course, I am far from suggesting that the elections were conducted as cleanly as, say, Swiss municipal elections. It was quite clear, for example, that access to television before the elections was incomparably greater for the government party than its opponents. Televisual triumphalism can work against candidates, of course, as Messrs Kinnock and Vargas Llosa know well; still, the impression of unfairness remained. And the small demonstration mounted in Skanderbeg Square by the opposition on the day following the first round of the elections illustrated to perfection the maladroitness of the Berisha government. I was myself arrested for trying to photograph the brutal and stupid way in which the police tried to break up the demonstration - in front of all the international election observers. A

couple of times I received a blow on the back with a truncheon, and was thrown into a Black Maria, where I joined Gramoz Pashko, a former minister of finance and visiting professor at Stirling University.

In the police cell, I tried to calm the excitable Mr Pashko, in case we all received the brutal beating we heard being administered to another prisoner. Fortunately, Mr Pashko did calm down, and we lived to tell the tale. My experience does not alter my conclusion: after all, I have never had any illusions about the conduct of Balkan policemen under any conceivable government. If the West were now to isolate Albania because it judges it by impossibly high standards and with deeply tendentious information, it would once again be betraying this small and proud nation, as it has betrayed it many times before.

Anthony Daniels is a doctor and writer

Barclays relieved of a million by scheming school pupils. Barclays New Futures encourages young people to think laterally and act positively on issues affecting their local communities. Every year, awards totalling £1 million are on offer to secondary schools displaying the right combination of vision and drive. This year's 80 award winners have just been announced and include imaginative, proactive schemes ranging from anti-bullying initiatives to basic skills programmes; after-school clubs to environmental regeneration; confronting the challenges of disability to community radio.

Margaret Rawlings

Power and passion

MARGARET Rawlings, who has died aged 89, was a formidable, irascible, and generous. Not up to the class perhaps of Sybil Thorneike in her heyday, but who any longer remembers that? As Lady Randolph in the Scottish tragedy *Douglas*, for an early Edinburgh Festival, she had us perched on the edge of our seats in the gallery and we hung on every word.

That was tragic acting in a classic vein, and that was nearly half a century ago. Not that the English have ever shown much appetite for tragedy. It is a wonder we get as much of it as we do; but we rarely got it better than with Margaret Rawlings.

The greater wonder is how a player learns to do it with a stronger tradition. Some never do, yet they have a go. That is how Rawlings first seized attention. She had the instinct and the talent. Eugenie Leontovich, the Russo-American star of *Tovarich*, who saw herself as a Shakespearean tragedy queen, had neither. As Cleopatra in Komisarjevsky's 1936 West End revival of *Antony and Cleopatra*, Leontovich was unintelligible. First-nighters, baffled and inclined to doze by her misbanding of the verse, woke up with a jolt when the asp had done its work on Cleopatra and a palace guard, viewing the silent, slumped actress turned to Charrum and asked: "Is this well done?"

In her clear, reverberative and ringing tones, Rawlings answered: "It is well done, and fitting for a princess descended from so many royal kings." Suddenly it was obvious who should have played the Queen of Egypt. In fact Rawlings never did but, since every critic made it clear she should have, Rawlings's reputation as a tragedienne in the making was set.

Here was the power to pro-

ject emotion with passion and discipline, the intensity and warmth to hook our sympathy and the kind of majestic assurance that soars at will — and poetically — the poisonings and petrifications of the genre.

Did not Shaw write a "brief tragedy for barns and booths" and was not Shaw one of the actress's favourite dramatists? It was with the Macdonald Players that she learned her craft and to whom she returned in leading roles to four Shaw's plays in the 1930s with a fidelity rivaled only in the 1940s by Donald Wolfit's to Shakespeare.

Acting with Wolfit at the Old Vic in *Tamburlaine the Great* (1951), she urged that actor-manager to mend his ways since if he was not in the limelight he would hum and hah and mutter and fidget while another player was trying to hold the stage. As the imprisoned Zerkina to his roaring *Tamburlaine*, she hissed one night: "Donald, if you do that again I shall rattle my chains all through your next speech."

ONLY SHE perhaps had the theatrical authority to put a fellow tragedienne in his place. Like Wolfit's, her authority could lead us spectators to the dramatic heights, whatever writings were going on behind her on stage.

Certainly Rawlings scaled those tragic heights as Victoria Coromona in Webster's *The White Devil* (Duchess, 1947) opposite Robert Helpmann's superb Flaminio — it was Rawlings who had persuaded him to quit Australia and try his luck as a dancer in London. Kenneth Tynan, aged 20, was in the audience. So were more experienced judges. All agreed that this was tragic acting of an almost terrifying order. Tynan, just setting up as a critic, wrote of the power behind the por-

trayal of this "plump, pallid nymphomaniac"; and indeed it was shattering.

She possessed not only the power but also the discipline over the verse which forbade the actress to snatch at a phrase or lapse into rant; and of course the sexuality amid the flow of emotion and terror was arresting, although not perhaps to those who had seen her as Wilde's Salome 15 years earlier at Peter Godfrey's enterprising Gaiety Theatre in Floral Street. At her dance of the seven veils there were nightly swoonings; and no one doubted her sex appeal, not to be accounted for by looks or voice alone but by the whole personality.

In addition to two marriages, there were numerous lovers. Novelists and dramatic critics turned playwrights for her sake; or at any rate the *Times's* Charles Morgan wrote his first play, *The Flashing Stream* (Lyric, 1938), with her in mind since they were lovers at the time. The subject of the typically high-minded and beautifully written drama? Platonic passion. The play took her back to Broadway again. She often acted in America.

Passion of one kind or another was very much her theme; and few others could convey it with such subtlety or force. Her *Lady Macbeth*, for example, in the heyday of Alec Chinnel's Arts Theatre Club in 1959, was for collectors. Not on the first night to judge by the notices but a week or so later. As she warmed to her work in front of a fire in the castle, so did her performance. Hands to face, hiding all but two great, frightened eyes, the actress almost set the basement theatre alight in her intensity and disquiet at Macbeth's behaviour.

There were many other such occasions in a career extending over 60 years, including a few films and televi-



Inimitable... Rawlings had the authority to put Wolfit in his place. PHOTO: FRANK MARTIN

sion plays, to make the playgoer wish he had seen, say, her Helen to Thordike's famous *Ecce Homo* in Lewis Casson's West End staging of *The Trojan Women* (1957), or her *Phèdre* (1957 and 1963) — on other than their opening nights — or her Blanca Capello, the soulful courtesan taken in marriage by a mem-

ber of the Medici family in Clifford Bar's *The Venetian* (1921), or her Jocasta, in John Neville's *Oedipus* (1964) when she had settled into one of Thordike's famous roles.

The record is long, honourable and inimitable; and it ended theatrically — and beautifully — in the 1980s as the ancient Empress Eugénie,

Napoleon III's wife, in Jason Lindsey's monodrama, though the actress went on broadcasting and reading poetry almost to the end.

Eric Shorter

Margaret Rawlings, actress, born June 5, 1908; died May 19, 1996

Léon-Etienne Duval

A calling of reconciliation

LÉON-ETIENNE DUVAL, who has died aged 92, campaigned most of his life for better relations between Christians and Muslims. As Archbishop of Algiers from 1962 until his retirement in 1988, he was one of the first French public figures to support Algeria's struggle for independence. However, recently he expressed despair at the future of his adopted country.



Duval... voice for Algeria

Shortly before his death he had learnt of the murder of seven French Trappist monks by Muslim terrorists opposed to the authoritarian regime. Friends said that anxiety over the monks had added to Duval's pessimism over the outcome of the civil war. Three years ago, when the fighting started, the archbishop wrote: "Behind the violence in 1961-62 there was the formidable hope of independence. Behind today's violence, there is no hope at all, nothing except a great emptiness."

Even at the height of the savagery that followed the French withdrawal from Algeria in 1962, when independence fighters massacred Algerians who had supported French rule, Duval had so much confidence in the future of his adopted country that he took Algerian nationality. Pro-French hard-liners nicknamed him Mohamed Duval.

His involvement with Algeria, which fought an eight-year independence war with France, began in 1946, when he became Bishop of Constantine, in north-east Algeria, soon after hundreds of rebellious Algerians were killed by French troops at Sétif. He promised to stay in the country for the rest of his life and work for reconciliation.

The moral authority increased when the war against France began in 1954, just before Duval's transfer to Algiers. During the next eight years he was vilified by the *Algérie Française* movement, particularly when he joined protests against torture by French troops. An exceptionally tall, thin man, he was easily recognisable during public campaigns for tolerance. This made him even more of a potential target for the OAS secret army, the terrorist movement which vowed to kill President de Gaulle after he agreed to Algerian independence in 1962.

Duval made a cardinal soon after taking Algerian national-

ity, frequently negotiated between extremists and the government but inside the church he was noted mainly for his attempts to bring Christians and Muslims together. During the Vatican II conference (1962-65) he sat with African bishops and presided for a better understanding of Islam. In 1971, as co-chairman of the Vatican synod, he was in charge of inter-religion dialogue. He supported the Palestinian cause and in 1979 was invited to Teheran by the Islamic government in Algeria, the founder Renéoret et Développement to encourage better relations between the industrialised countries and the Third World.

A farmer's son, Duval entered a seminary at 12. In 1928, he attended the French seminary in Rome, where he graduated with a doctorate of theology, two years before ordination at the age of 23. During the war, he served as vicar-general of Annecy in south-east France. His views on doctrine were strictly orthodox and his guiding saints were Bernadette, the Curé d'Ars and Augustin, whose works he quoted by heart. In turn, the Monsignor was a strong spiritual influence on his nephew, Joseph Duval, Archbishop of Rouen.

The Algerian archbishop's favourite writer was the Algerian-born Albert Camus, whose humanist philosophy echoed in Duval's 1962 appeal to his countrymen: "There is no hope without mutual understanding, brotherly cooperation, reconciliation and the desire for peace."

Paul Webster

Léon-Etienne Duval, born November 9, 1903; died May 30, 1996

Letter

Peter Hardy MP writes: Sir Jack Layden (obituary May 30) and I were colleagues in south Yorkshire local government before 1970 and, I believe, we remained friends despite a 1977 rivalry when we were both shortlisted for the former Rother Valley Parliamentary Labour candidature.

The selection conference wasn't quite one member one vote but it was certainly a little more democratic than your obituarist Denis MacShane may now imagine. Jack was disappointed at that conference but within days I was his guest at the Maltby Miners' Welfare Club and at the next Yorkshire miners' gala I marched with the Maltby men at Jack's side.

In the early 1970s, Jack, an established figure in the National Union of Mineworkers and the party, was also nominated for a Yorkshire NUM full-time post. The other major candidate was a young man called Scargill. I had noted that Arthur Scargill was frequently on Yorkshire Television, while Jack had not been on TV once in the previous six months. I pointed out to YTV that the imbalance could assist the frequently featured candidate in a position that was a major step towards the NUM leadership. One wonders how Jack, as NUM leader, would have handled matters since that time.

Jack was a cornetist in Maltby's band as a young man. Perhaps that is why Rotherham Education Authority has maintained musical opportunity despite the fact that we do not enjoy the same central support as, say, Westminster City Council.

Eric Wood

The past revealed

ALTHOUGH he never held an academic post, Eric Wood, who has died aged 83, was an archaeological polymath. Two of his books, the *Collins Field Guide to Archaeology and Historical Britain* (published only six months ago) — will be his lasting memorial.

He was a remarkable personality, sparkily and teasing under a deceptively stern exterior, startlingly well read and deeply loved by virtually everyone he knew. He was a deep and spiritual thinker (an elder of the Society of Friends and active nationally and locally in its councils) yet extremely modest and retiring — one was constantly being surprised by a sudden burst of erudition on one subject or another. He was also non-conformist to the core: a great subversive who thoroughly enjoyed demolishing pomposity, greed and pretension, while integrity and kindness were his own hallmarks. A day with him was always a happy and satisfying one.

Eric was educated at St Olave's School, Southwark, and took a degree in French and German at King's College London in 1936. A Francophile, he was as happy with French literature as with English. He joined the Civil Service, working through the Inland Revenue, Aircraft Production (during the war) to Trade and Industry at his 1972 retirement.

By the time I knew him, just before he retired, Eric

was set on his alternative career as archaeological writer. A wartime posting to Harrogate had resulted in his first book, *The Ancient Buildings of the Harrogate District* (1949). In 1949, realising archaeology was his real métier, he enrolled for the post-graduate diploma in prehistoric European archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology (now part of University College, London). His supervisor was Professor Gordon Childe, the man-roy of the subject. Uncharacteristically, Eric abandoned his thesis on the work of Canon William Greenwell (18th century barrow excavator), although his *Archaeology of Nidderdale*, drafted in the 1950s, was never completed either.

HE CERTAINLY had stickability, which was shown most markedly in the first of his great works, the *Collins Field Guide to Archaeology*. It appeared in 1963 and over the next 20 years Eric gave it five heavy revisions; the sixth had been called for shortly before his death.

This remarkable work, commended in the foreword by Sir Mortimer Wheeler for its "wise catholicity", delved into all aspects of archaeology, both instructively and entertainingly; its bibliography rarely falls even on the obscurest subject. The book sold 80,000 copies, a clear demonstration of its accessi-

bility to the general public, just as Eric had intended. Eric assisted on many excavations and directed several, perhaps most notably excavating two early glass furnaces in his then home county of Surrey. Earlier he had published numerous diverse subjects. In the 1970s he was invited to set up the Collins Archaeology series, with myself (then editor of British Archaeological Abstracts) as co-editor. Eric identified at least 40 titles that needed writing but, sadly, only six were published before a concatenation of circumstances brought the series to an end.

Eric also found time to write poetry; no "slim volume" appeared but numerous poems were published in periodicals and elsewhere. A inserted medieval village formed the inspiration for one of these.

Eric was elected fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 1958 and member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists in 1984. He served on the council of the Prehistoric Society and held office in numerous other archaeological bodies.

Throughout his married life he found great support for all his outlandish projects with Marion (née Bowler) who had similar quiet depths to Eric's and shared his love of beautiful objects. After her death Eric married an equally ebullient spirit, Pamela Woodard, who supported him while he wrote *Historical*



Wood... supreme example of the gifted amateur

Britain (1995) — unfairly neglected by most of the press. Besides his widow Pam, Eric leaves a daughter, Audrey. A second daughter, Julia, predeceased him.

Cherry Lovell

Sir Richard King writes: Eric Wood entered the Executive Class of the Civil Service in 1933 and most of his career was spent in the defence departments, particularly with the Air Ministry. He spent the war years in Harrogate, to where the ministry was evacuated. There he became passionately fond of the Yorkshire people and countryside and was

fortunately able to pursue his new-found interest of archaeology without undue interruption.

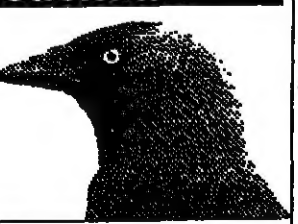
It was during the war that he was promoted to the Administrative Class of the Civil Service, from where he could have reached the highest ranks, but by this time he had realised that archaeology was the driving force in his life and virtually every spare moment was spent in study of one or other aspects of the subject. When Eric returned to London after the war, he spent almost all his evenings in the British Museum, poring over some archaeological report or remains.

Eric Wood was the supreme example of a gifted amateur archaeologist. To this, his second career, he brought the intellectual rigour and integrity of a senior civil servant. A quiet and modest man of strong convictions and deep faith, he never forced his purpose upon others but his fellow archaeologists got on and did things because he made them realise that they wanted to. When he and his wife Marion took on the secretaryship of the semi-moribund Surrey Archaeological Society, they soon turned into a vigorous, enthusiastic focus of historical and archaeological studies.

Eric had no wish to be seen as an intellectual giant; he did it rather than that he demonstrated what can be achieved by honing one's talents to a keen edge on enthusiasm and hard work.

Eric Stuart Wood, archaeologist, born November 22, 1912; died May 21, 1996

Jackdaw



Room war

Ways to Annoy Your Room-mate

COLLECT hundreds of pens and pile them on one side of the room. Keep one pencil on the other side of the room. Laugh at the pencil.

When your room-mate is typing, type in synchronization.

Challenge your room-mate to a duel. If he/she refuses, claim that you have won by forfeit and therefore conquered his/her side of the room. Insist that he/she remove all of his/her possessions immediately.

Drink a cup of coffee every morning. When you finish it,

gnaw on the mug for about 10 minutes. Then look at your room-mate, and quickly leave the room.

Wear your shoes on the wrong feet. Constantly complain that your feet hurt all the time.

Shadow-box several times a day. One day, walk in looking depressed. If your room-mate asks what's wrong, explain that your shadow can't box any more due to an injury. Ask your room-mate if you can box with his/her shadow.

Buy a plant. Sleep with it at night. Talk to it. After a few weeks start to argue with it loudly. Then yell, "I can't live in the same room with you!" storm out of the room and slam the door. Get rid of the plant but keep the pot. Refuse to discuss the plant ever again.

Bowl inside the room. Set up tournaments with other people in the building. Award someone a trophy. If your room-mate wants to bowl too, explain that he/she needs bowling shoes.

Set up about 20 plants in an

organised formation. When your room-mate walks in, pretend to be in the middle of delivering a speech to the plants. Whisper to them, "We'll continue this later", while eyeing your room-mate suspiciously.

Eat a bag of marshmallows before you go to bed. The next day, spoon three battles of whipped cream all over your floor. Say you got sick in the night.

Just a few of the 500 methods to annoy your living partner. Discussed at the Centre for the Easily Annoyed. <http://www2.islandnet.com/~cwaliker/>

Brain bend

PART VI: Modernism and the Age of Analysis: Conclusion. Kahn's Paradigm Paradigm. Habermas's Critical Theory. Barthes, Semiotics and Revolt Against Structuralism. Social Justice and Social Democracy in Contemporary Times: A Theory of Justice by John Rawls. Alvin Gouldner's Dark Side of the Dialectic: Social Theory, Renegade Sociology and Outlaw Marxism. Foucault: Power.

Knowledge and Post-Structuralism. Quine's Ontological Relativism and the End of "Philosophy". Rorty's Neo-Pragmatism. Jean-Francois Lyotard: The Post-Modern Condition. Conclusion: The Theory of Knowledge and Language. Conclusion: Political, Social and Cultural Criticism and Theory. Course No. 406 Video Or Audio

The intellectual equivalent of the *Jane Fonda Workout* being pushed in an advertisement in the *New York Review of Books*. Watch this video (a snip at \$149.95) and you can then answer the personal ads in the back of the magazine. For example the "Vivacious, petite French physician interested in ideas, theatre, art, active sports, seeks like-minded man 60+", is, *There, a Quinean ontological relativist!*

The shove

A DIVISION within a Fortune 500 company issued a memo that encouraged employees to increase their global effectiveness by taking foreign language instruction during the work day. Six

months later all those who had availed themselves of the offer were fired. Management had apparently concluded that anyone who had time to take a course during business hours was obviously underemployed.

John Koepke, now 56, didn't want to leave his wife, Pat, home alone that terrible day in 1991. Just hours earlier she had been diagnosed with malignant breast cancer. But she insisted he go to the offices of the Illinois graphics company for a board meeting. Koepke had served as the company's president for the previous eight years and his absence would be noticed. When he got to the office, the chairman pulled him aside. "How's Pat?" he boss asked.

"Not too well," replied Koepke. "We don't have the details yet, except that the cancer's malignant."

"Too bad — this isn't a good day for you," said the chairman. "We're making some changes around here, and you're no longer needed."

Koepke dissociated from reality for a moment; he

prayed he was having a bad dream. Later he found out that the company was renegotiating his contractual severance agreement.

A supervisor called a meeting with his wives to say that someone was stealing from the restaurant. In order to establish the identity of the thief, he told the assembled women he would begin firing them, one by one, in alphabetical order, until someone confessed. The company was found guilty of intentional infliction of emotional distress.

As part of a sales agreement, the original owners of a medical collection agency were instructed to winnow its staff by half. The 1,000 employees were assembled in the parking lot and the names of the 500 to be laid off were read aloud. The original owners then told the remaining employees they were lucky they still had jobs, but their medical insurance had been terminated.

Taken from a management article in *Fortune* magazine entitled "How to fire people and still sleep at night." Thankfully, these were true examples of what not to do.

FOR ONE VROOM!

Mercedes vs. BMW

They've left the Japanese in the dust. They're racing each other.

Fortune... the big push

I AM a New Yorker living in exile, living in northern New England for the past eight years. Perhaps you have heard the rumours but the death of R's here is much more serious than can be appreciated by any outsiders. New Englanders call it the death of the Oz.

Tough Yankees have per-

R rights

formed as well as can be expected in this vacuum but identify confusion reigns. When it comes for invitations, is your next neighbour's name Mark or Mack?

Too. Are gender confusion, too. Are the lifeguards at the lake gossiping about Barney or Bonni?

We are at risk of losing touch with the outside world. I ask that New Yorkers open your hearts, you who dwell in Rabundance. Could some foundation please collect some of your excess R's and ship them to us? We are holding out, but can only last so long.

Thomas E. Lawless writes to the *New York Times* begging for assistance in dealing with the latest environmental disaster: the gradual extinction of R.

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; or write to Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Emily Sheffield

Emily Sheffield

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Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
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Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Row over Railtrack gagging

Fears of safety record cover-up

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

THREE month "gagging order" has been issued by the Government on public bodies for forbidding them from making statements which could adversely affect the price of shares in Railtrack while it adjusts to being a private company.

The ban is being seen by critics as a way of stifling potentially damaging revelations about Railtrack's safety record.

The "gagging order", which applies until August 1, three months after the date when Railtrack's prospectus was issued, affects all public organisations that have an interest in the industry.

These include the Health and Safety Executive, the British Railways Board (BRB), the rail regulator and the franchising director.

The ban has been revealed in a letter from the Department of Transport to the BRB. The guidelines were confirmed yesterday by BRB which officially said that it was not "excited" by the ruling.

But informal sources said that when the letter first arrived "we found it quite alarming."

Some of the restrictions were so draconian that BRB immediately asked the Department of Transport whether the rail franchising process should be suspended until August, or that no public statements should be made.

Clare Short, Labour's shadow transport secretary, said: "The Government are trying to gag wholly independent public bodies for purely

political motives. It is totally unacceptable that important information concerning the industry should be kept out of the public domain to protect political and commercial interests."

She said if there were criticisms of Railtrack, particularly in matters of health and safety, which had to be addressed "then it is both irresponsible and dangerous for the Government to suppress them." She added: "The gagging order reveals as much as it hides, namely the Government's own lack of confidence in Railtrack as a company."

The Government justified the unprecedented move on Stock Exchange guidelines requiring post flotation statements to be consistent with

those made in the prospectus. But Stock Exchange rules apply only to listed companies, not to public bodies or to regulatory agencies responsible to government or to Parliament.

The Stock Exchange said yesterday that the only restriction it could impose after a flotation was on "price sensitive information." But the Government's gagging order was regarded in the City last night as "weird" and "unnecessary."

In its letter, revealed in Rail Privatisation News, the Department of Transport sought not only to apply Stock Exchange guidelines on policy statements after a flotation to public agencies, but also to enlarge its scope. The letter was interpreted initially as

applying to any statement that might depress the value of Railtrack's shares.

The company must complete between now and August two improvement notices which have been forced on it by the Health and Safety Executive.

The HSE has warned Railtrack that it may be running an unsafe railway and must put its house in order by the end of July. This position was referred to in general terms in Railtrack's prospectus, but the details were not spelt out.

Vic Coleman, the Government's deputy inspector of railways, has told Railtrack: "There is no room for complacency. Railtrack must take urgent steps to strengthen its systems and the way they are applied."

Notebook

Think-tank fails to fill vacuum



Edited by Mark Milner

NATIONALISATION has sounded old-fashioned for years now — Labour's ditching of Clause Four last year was important only for its symbolism. And the counter-trend of the right, privatisation, has also lost its lustre during John Major's reign. Few Conservatives sound genuinely enthusiastic about flogging off the Post Office or nuclear power.

Enter, into this vacuum, the latest idea from think-tank Demos, unveiled today: stake-ownership.

The starting point of the paper's author, Jeffrey Gates, is that capitalism has produced too few capitalists. So the state should help things along a bit, by promoting a wider share ownership. His first suggestion, tax breaks for companies in which the workers own some or all of the shares — Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs) — is well rehearsed, and mostly unobjectionable.

But Mr Gates then overreaches himself, advocating the establishment of Consumer Stock Ownership Plans (CSOPs), in which utilities, monopoly positions — such as water and electricity firms — give shares to their customers, instead of price cuts. The paper even suggests VSOPs for BBC television viewers.

In a world of growing joblessness and insecurity, Mr Gates reckons such schemes will "prepare capitalism for people" and engineer a "new economic connectance."

Perhaps. There are practical difficulties, however. The utilities could "ration" the number of shares available, which would mean a lot of people holding a few shares or a few people holding a lot. Guess which. On the other hand, if enough people held enough shares for the scheme to have meaning, then dividend payments would either be miserly to a degree even Scrooge would have jibbed at or the companies would face unsustainable cash outflows.

Popular capitalism has its attractions, no doubt, but is easier to preach than practice. Mrs Thatcher tried to sell it, albeit at a discount, without much success. Giving it away under the banner of stake-ownership (where such words come from) is unlikely to prove much more effective.

Sceptical Swiss

THE Swiss, of course, are confirmed Euro-sceptics, having rejected the whole idea of signing up for European Union membership. Even so, it might be thought a trifle surprising to

find one of the country's top central bankers delivering a speech on currency linkages which would have had Conservative Euro-sceptics crying "amen" to almost every word.

Yet those Euro-sceptics who haunt the Tory backbenches will have found little to cavil at in the thrust of comments by the Swiss National Bank's vice president, Jean-Pierre Roth, yesterday. The Swiss franc has appreciated against the German mark, among other currencies, and its strength has had its impact on the competitiveness of Swiss industry. Mr Roth and his colleagues are braced for further such appreciation in the value of the franc, at least until the financial markets have weighed up the euro and its supporting policies.

According to Mr Roth, that leaves Switzerland with two choices: to peg the franc's value and give up monetary

policy, or to allow the franc to float. He has no doubts. "I am convinced... that the advantages of autonomous monetary policy outweigh others," he said.

Unfortunately Mr Roth's logic is rather less applicable in the UK than in Switzerland. Despite the recent strength of the pound, sterling's long-term trend on the international currency markets is to weaken, whereas the Swiss franc is to strengthen. As Mr Roth notes, Swiss exporters may be able to handle the impact of a stronger currency through the existing array of financial instruments. Nor are Switzerland's trading partners likely to protest if Swiss firms are priced out of their markets.

There are, however, no such financial instruments for deflecting the irritation of Britain's trading partners at what they see as the competitive devaluation of sterling. They may be inclined to see the advantages of autonomous policy, to Britain's disadvantage.

Early baths

VODAFONE has expanded overseas by sticking to the business it knows best — running mobile phone networks — and is about to start reaping the benefits. This contrasts strongly with many of the water companies which have ventured into businesses outside their core competences and had their fingers burned.

Thames Water shareholders, as they look at the cost of pulling out of UTAG in Germany, are the latest to count the cost of ill-advised diversification. Would that they would be the last. It is worth remembering that the Government's vision at the time of privatisation was that the water companies would build up strong non-regulated businesses, which would generate dividends for shareholders. Big bedroom pay rises were justified on the grounds that the water companies had become big international businesses, with increased responsibility for directors. Can it be those inflated salaries were taken before they were earned?

Cadbury sells stake in Coke bottling venture

Paul Murphy

CADBURY-Schweppe's nine-year dalliance with the world's biggest soft drinks concern, Coca-Cola, came to an abrupt end yesterday as the two firms decided to sell their joint venture for around £1.3 billion.

Coca-Cola & Schweppe Beverages has five plants which bottle, can and distribute both Cadbury and Coca-Cola products, together with a long list of other drinks such as Fariert, throughout the UK. It is being bought by an associate of the Coca-Cola Company, Coca-Cola Enterprises.

Cadbury-Schweppe is due to pick up £820 million initially for its 51 per cent stake in the venture. Further payments will relate to a new 15-year bottling and distribution deal for Cadbury products in Britain, which may take the total sale proceeds to around £700 million.

The Coca-Cola Company, which is selling its own 49 per cent stake in the venture to its 44 per cent-owned associate, is due to pick up £200 million initially once the deal is finalised next month.

Cadbury's chairman, Dominic Cadbury, said the decision to sell out of the venture, where profits have risen from £15 million in 1987 to £120 million last year, would allow the group to focus purely on developing and marketing its world-leading brands rather than on manufacturing. He added that the new licensing deal with Coca-Cola Enterprises — which includes a series of volume targets, mar-

keting promises and various non-competition clauses — "provides the long-term security for our brands and the commitment to their growth that we believe we need in the British market."

The deal thus allows us to realise funds hitherto tied up in bottling assets and devote them to our primary purpose — the growth of our branded business worldwide," said Mr Cadbury.

The City saluted the deal, which at a stroke chops debt on Cadbury's balance sheet — built up through last year's £1.6 billion takeover of Dr Pepper in the US — to around £750 million, or 45 per cent of shareholders' funds. The move also removes the need for a planned £250 million US share issue, which would have diluted Cadbury shares yesterday saw the market price add 17p to 498p.

Cadbury's chief executive, David Wellings, was at pains to stress that the company was not "creating a vacuum" for a big deal elsewhere, and there were broad hints that Cadbury has no current interest in taking over United Biscuits — the Foods group with which Cadbury has persistently been linked by stock market speculators during recent months.

Cadbury is, however, considering using part of the proceeds to buy back up to £200 million of preference stock.

In terms of promoting its brands, the company said it was making good headway in areas such as the former Soviet Union, China and India. Dr Pepper was said to be proving especially popular in Russia.

NEC link forms big PC player

Mark Tran in New York

COMPUTER group NEC is combining its PC operations outside Japan with Packard Bell of the US to form the world's fourth largest manufacturer.

Together, the two companies — to be known as Packard Bell-NEC — will be the top PC seller in the US, overtaking Compaq. The new operation, which begins on July 1, will have American sales of \$8 billion (about £5 billion) in the first year and control 15.1 per cent of the PC market there.

NEC's move cements a global alliance between NEC, Packard Bell and France's Groupe Bull, in which NEC holds a 17 per cent stake, designed to buttress the three companies in the global market at a time when cut-throat competition has slashed profit margins of PC makers.

"It's a tough business to survive in and breadth is essential for survival in the long term," said Craig Marino of computer business analysts Broadview Associates.

The combined company will be led by Benny Alagani, chief executive of Packard Bell, who anticipates a public offering of the new entity within two years. His appointment surprised the industry, which expected the much larger NEC to take over Packard Bell and install its own managers.

"We've gradually built up mutual confidence over the

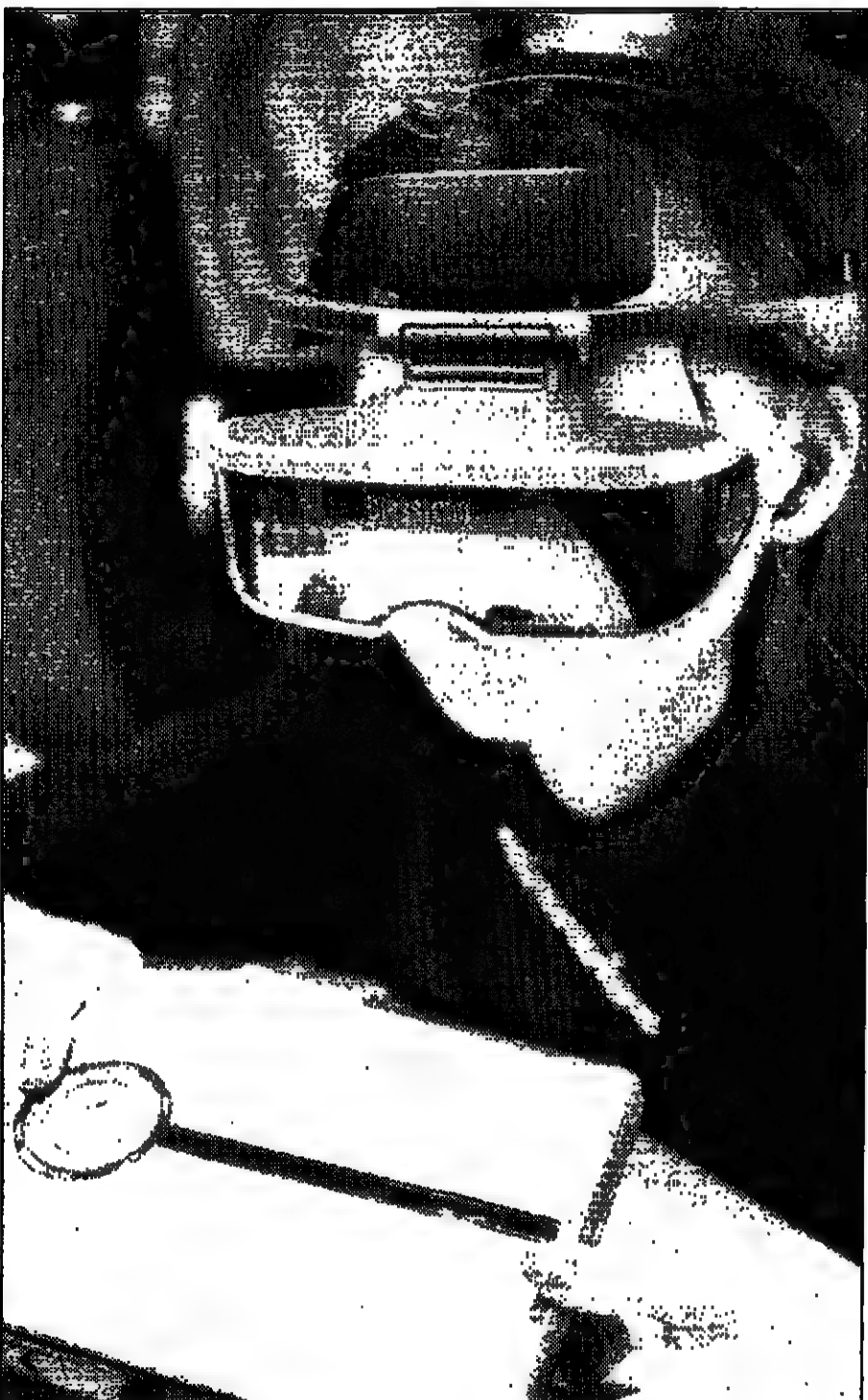
last year and we want to move to unite operations as quickly as possible," said NEC president Hisashi Kaneko. By teaming up with NEC, Packard Bell will get much-needed access to cash. NEC, one of Japan's oldest electronics firms, had sales of \$41 billion in the year to March 31. It is the largest seller of PCs in Japan.

Packard Bell will give NEC access to the world's largest PC market, especially the growing multimedia PC segment. Last August, NEC paid \$170 million for a 19.9 per cent stake in Packard Bell. In April, Packard Bell merged with Zenith Data Systems, then owned by Bull, in a \$650 million deal that included \$283 million in cash from NEC.

The new company will have a complicated marketing job as it will continue selling machines under three different brands: Packard Bell, NEC and Zenith Data Systems. Each has a reputation in distinct markets. Packard Bell with consumers, Zenith Data with government buyers and NEC with business.

CompuServe, one of the largest on-line service providers, yesterday committed itself to using Microsoft technology, including its Internet Explorer browser and new Internet platform code-named Normandy, as part of a strategic alliance with the software group. Access to CompuServe will be included in versions of Windows 95 due to go on sale at the end of the year.

Sony offers your own private screening



THE company that gave the world the music Walkman is taking personalised entertainment into a new dimension with an individual movie screen mounted in a headset.

Sony showroom attendant Emi Shiota (above) demonstrates the latest gadget to be launched by the electronics corporation in Japan later this month. Measuring 7.9 by 4.7 by 10.2ins, it

weighs 11oz and will cost \$8,000 yen (£513). It features a monitor and plays back images from a video cassette recorder or a video compact disc player.

PHOTOGRAPH: TOBIN YUKI AIZAWA

SFA puts trio without the City wall

DAN ATKINSON considers criminals' expulsions for 'loss of integrity'

THEY were three members of the banking and broking elite, responsible collectively for millions of pounds of funds. All had been cleared to work in the most sensitive areas of financial services and to handle that most precious of commodities — your money. Their earnings were way above those of ordinary citizens and they could look forward to distinguished careers.

There was just one problem. They were all crooked. On the surface, one was a banker, one was a trader and one was a broker.

In reality, one was a thief, one was a forger and

the third was a failed armed robber.

Yesterday, the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the body that polices all exchange-based broking and trading activity, stung them out of the City.

Not that this expulsion makes much difference to the prospects of the thief and the robber — both are serving jail terms.

As for the forger, there may be some City employers who would wish to hire

somebody who faked Lord Denning's signature and dishonestly promised access to the Queen's social circle, but not many.

All three have been expelled by SFA on the grounds of violating the agency's "principle three", which covers fitness for employment in banking and broking. "They have all ceased to comply with the criterion of integrity," said the SFA — without evident irony.

The forger, the thief, the failed armed robber and their nemesis

DAVID Newton, a registered stockbroker, tried his hand at armed robbery in an attempt to clear large personal debts.

He walked into a newagent's in Ashford, Surrey, wearing a black crash helmet and scarf and carrying a replica revolver.

Newton handed the shop manager's 15-year-old daughter a note warning her to stay silent and hand over the takings "or someone will get hurt".

He fled empty-handed after her mother raised the alarm and was stopped by police shortly afterwards. Newton was sentenced last July to four years in prison.

HENRY Douglas was security chief at the London branch of Denmark's Jyske Bank.

He was also the compliance officer, the man responsible for ensuring Jyske conformed with City rules.

In this role, Douglas — supposedly frustrated by having had his warnings about lax controls ignored — stole about £95,000 between March 1991 and November 1994, misusing his knowledge of the bank's systems to introduce non-existent foreign-exchange deals into the books.

Much of the money funded his children's education. Appearing at the Old Bailey in August last year, he was given 30 months in prison.

STEFANOS Kollitakis, a registered trader, helped make £25,000 selling forged heraldic documents to Americans and Middle Easterners, dishonestly luring them with promises of membership of the Queen's "social list".

Kollitakis and his partner Mark Lewis forged the signature of former Minister of the Rolls Lord Denning on more than 20 documents "entitling" the bearer to lordships of various manners.

The two men travelled by Concorde and stayed at luxury hotels.

They were convicted at Southwark Crown Court last May and received 160 hours' community service apiece.

Pauline Springett

ACIA, Stephen Hinchliffe's retail empire, collapsed entirely yesterday when its one remaining chain, Sock Shop, was put into receivership.

Sock Shop is now in the hands of accountants KPMG who are already receivers of the main Facia group, as well as of four of the group's clothing subsidiaries. Sock Shop, with 600 staff, has 97 stores, all of which are continuing to trade while KPMG tries to find a buyer.

This is the second time Sock Shop has collapsed. Founded in 1983 by Sophie Mirman and Richard Ross, it went into administration in February, 1990 after building up heavy losses.

But KPMG said it had received an offer for the entire Facia group from Gary

O'Brien, Facia's chief operating officer. The receivers decline to say how much O'Brien had offered or whether he was operating with Mr Hinchliffe.

KPMG said it had received 94 inquiries for the Facia businesses, including 23 for the overall group.

Facia's other subsidiary, the bags and accessories chain Salisbury, is in receivership with Grant Thornton. The footwear side of Mr Hinchliffe's empire is in administration with Price Waterhouse. The Facia debacle has considerably increased the pressure on Sears chief executive, Liam Strong, with several institutional investors predicting he might be forced to resign soon.

Sears has been caught up in the Facia fiasco because it sold some of its shoe shop chains, such as Telford and Freeman Hardy Willis, to Facia.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.88	France 7.77	Italy 2.50	Singapore 2.190
Austria 13.20	Germany 2.825	Japan 150.75	South Africa 6.56
Belgium 47.29	Greece 365.50	Netherlands 2.5825	Spain 193.50
Canada 2.0780	Hong Kong 11.71	New Zealand 2.22	Sweden 10.22
Cyprus 0.7070	India 54.70	Norway 5.85	Switzerland 1.18
Denmark 8.95	Ireland 0.9475	Portugal 238.25	Turkey 116.07
Finland 7.2225	Israel 5.08	Saudi Arabia 5.79	USA 1.1575

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

سكنا من الاجل

Supermarket pizzazz is set to shake banks. The high street may change forever. TERESA HUNTER and CLIFF JONES report

Bankers roll up their sleeves

THE "pile 'em high, sell 'em cheap" sales methods of the high street are about to transform the staid world of banking. It will lead ultimately to a new breed of value-for-money and customer-friendly current accounts, which will be conducted almost exclusively outside a bank branch.

Beauty parlours than traditional banking. But Tesco's foray into the staid world of high finance with the launch this week of a Clubcard Plus payment card should have bankers quaking in their shoes. In fact, the reverse is true.

Similarly, Direct Line revolutionised the motor insurance market after its launch in 1985 with its cut-price premiums. With other copycat direct insurers, it forced the incumbent giants of the industry to cut premiums lower than they might ever have imagined.

Supermarkets and other retailers, whose own margins have been squeezed to the bone, have been enviously eyeing up the banks 3 to 4 per cent margin on their current account business.

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER GIRO CURRENT ACCOUNT £20 CHALLENGE. Open a Current Account now and you'll get £20 worth of Marks & Spencer gift vouchers.

Customers will no longer leave their money sitting on deposit for derisory amounts. They will move banks for an extra 1 or 2 per cent. Simultaneously, banks have reviewed their own attitude to current accounts.

are paid for every transaction which passes the check-out. Adding limited banking services to the list, in theory, costs the retailer little.

Johnston rolls in as Emap stops its regional press

OUTLOOK/Group's £205m deal ends nearly 50 years in newspapers. Tony May reports

EMAP yesterday followed the example of the Thomson group and got out of the local newspaper industry. The buyer, the Edinburgh-based Johnston Press, is paying £205 million to more than double its size in an industry that Emap and Thomson were keen to leave.

Robyn Millar said there had been "quite a lot of agonising" over the decision to sell the newspapers. But the group has spent £300 million over the past two years in magazines, business communications and radio which have provided faster growth.

Johnston has a £180 million package of loans to help pay for its purchase, with the rest of the acquisition being funded through a £111 million one-for-two rights issue at 180p a share.

division headquarters is expected to close. The executive board will receive an average of £30,000 a year more for running the enlarged company.

City crowd-pleaser must maintain maximum throttle

EMAP maintained its progress as one of the fastest growing media companies in Europe over the past year. Profits jumped 35 per cent to £88.5 million, boosted by contributions from recent acquisitions but with strong underlying growth as well.

Operating margins widened from 12.4 per cent to 13.5 per cent and the group looks for a further improvement this year as acquisitions are integrated and paper prices fall.

The Lloyd's half-a-million men



News that some underwriters pocketed big bonuses last year comes at a bad time, with the market finalising compensation for Names, who have sued over enormous losses. Pauline Springett continues our series as the outcry on top pay rages on

SEVERAL top underwriters at Lloyd's of London are understood to have received remuneration packages last year in excess of £500,000, dwarfing the pay levels of the previous year which saw seven earning over £200,000.

Using in marine insurance, are believed to have made returns of 20 per cent. "Marine is going to be very good indeed," said one Lloyd's insider, adding that the non-marine syndicates are expected to make a lower return of around 12 per cent.

Names. The market is in the last stages of finalising the £3.1 billion-plus compensation deal for them, thousands of whom have been suing over enormous losses. Names' action groups have been highly critical of underwriters' salaries, arguing that many of the people responsible for the Lloyd's debacle have received unjustly high remuneration.

Garages die out as hypermarkets continue to fill up

Petroleum that in 1965 there were 38,000 filling stations — 87 per cent of them independent of the big petrol companies and 10 per cent boasting just one pump.

THE traditional British petrol station faces extinction, crushed by intense competition and disappearing profit margins. As hypermarkets expand their fuel operations, thousands of independent garages — especially those in urban or edge-of-town areas — will shut.

Cheung highest paid at C&W

LINUS Cheung, chief executive of Hongkong Telecom, has emerged as the highest paid director of Cable & Wireless, its majority owner, writes Nick Bannister.

National Grid defends record

DIRECTORS at the National Grid issued a strong defence yesterday of the company's record in maintaining power supplies last winter despite coming close to ordering black-outs on three occasions.

Vodafone beats forecasts

VODAFONE, Britain's largest mobile phone operator, yesterday forecast that its overseas business would move into profit for the first time this year.

Results in brief

Thames Water lifts payout as profit dips

THAMES Water's profit rise last year has been more than wiped out by exceptional costs associated mainly with its decision to cut its ties with loss-making overseas ventures.

De La Rue shares slide

MORE than £125 million was wiped off the market value of De La Rue yesterday after the world's biggest non-government currency printer warned that its profit in the first half of the year was likely to slip because lower demand for banknotes had cut into its margins.

Advertisement for Dushya pedigree, featuring a pedigree chart and text: 'Dushya pedigree', 'Track with guide', 'Collection card to...'.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom center of the page.

EURO 96

Venables embarks on flight of fancy

David Lacey is bemused by the latest scene from Upstairs Downstairs

ENGLAND'S preparations for the opening game of the 1996 European Championship on Saturday began yesterday in the time-honoured fashion: there was a row with the press.

Down at Bisham Abbey the sun beamed, blossoms blossomed, tennis balls plinked and ploinked and the birds, unlike television repairmen aboard Cathay Pacific Flight CX261, were singing.

On Monday the Football Association agreed to pay the airline compensation for damage caused to two TV sets and a table. It was also announced that Terry Venables's 23 players had accepted collective responsibility for the incident.



Media mayhem... the massed ranks of the press corps await the arrival of England's defensive line-up at Bisham Abbey

making the point about why I haven't said anything over the last few days, that's all." By now Horace Rumpole would have pinned Venables to the wall, had the press conference not been held in a tent.

Yesterday Venables almost dismissed these scenes out of hand. "I said they could have a night out. They were in on time. They just had a few drinks. All right, the pictures didn't look attractive, but I've

seen some of you guys [the press] behaving badly too." True, it has been known for reporters to take the odd drink, but they are not the ones about to play in a major football tournament.

The markiness of this business is what ruffles most. By contrast there was a new aura about Bobby Moore when he strode through the media maul at the airport in Mexico City after the bogus bracelet

business in Bogota before the 1970 World Cup. And when Bobby Robson heard, before England played Holland in Cagliari in 1980, that a newspaper was running a story alleging that several members of his squad had slept with an Italian World Cup boss, he asked for forthright answers.

son they were blameless. England had the better of a goalless draw with the Dutch, and thereafter all the talk was about Paul Gascoigne. Most of it still is.

Police shocked by ticket plans

John Duncan

TICKETS for Euro 96 games at some venues will be on sale on the day of matches, it emerged yesterday. The Football Association is seeking the approval of local police forces for the move.

A Nottingham police spokesman expressed surprise at the news, and senior officers were said to have "hit the roof" when the FA said it intended selling tickets in the town centre on the day of the match.

Horne set for Birmingham

Ian Ross

BIRMINGHAM City's policy of recruiting highly experienced players will continue this weekend with the signing of Everton's Barry Horne. Horne, the Wales captain, is expected to meet City's new manager Trevor Francis at St Andrews today to discuss the move.

International Holland 3, Rep of Ire 1

Dutch turn up heat as injured De Boer is left out in the cold

HOLLAND, among the favourites for Euro 96, lifted their morale with a 3-1 victory over the Republic of Ireland at Rotterdam's Feyenoord Stadium last night.

But with Jordi Cruyff beginning to pull the strings in midfield, it was no surprise when Holland equalised after 27 minutes. Seedorf found Bergkamp on the edge of the penalty area with a perfect pass and the 27.5 million Arsenal forward arrogantly chipped over Given to land his shot in the far corner.

Holland finally made a double breakthrough in the last 13 minutes as the Irish youngsters tired on a sultry evening. Bergkamp was at the heart of both goals. He clipped a pass which took Seedorf behind the Irish back line to plant an easy shot wide of Given. Then, two minutes from the end, the Arsenal player combined cleverly with Seedorf to release Cocu and he shot in off the underside of the crossbar.

France opens hostilities with a broadside at England

IN A Gallic outburst owing more to a Rowan Atkinson sketch on Not The Nine O'Clock News than any grounding in reality, the France coach Jacques Blanc has accused England of trying to stage-manage victory in the European Championship.

France coach Jacques Blanc has accused England of trying to stage-manage victory in the European Championship. Blanc is apparently unhappy that the hosts will be playing all their games at Wembley.

Defiant Danes ready for more DIY

Michael Walker

BY HIS own admission Richard Moller Nielsen, Denmark's manager, has one of the most famous kitchens in Europe. It is not something he boasts about, it is just a fact.

Four years ago while his players, having failed to qualify for the European Championship in Sweden, prepared to head off to beaches around the world, Moller Nielsen readied himself for some kitchen DIY. But Yugoslavia, whose national team had plipped Denmark to qualification, disintegrated; Denmark were reprimanded and went on to win the trophy. They had done it themselves and Moller Nielsen's kitchen was finished by workmen.

But on the leafy edge of Leeds yesterday a passing stranger would have been forgiven asking "Is that them?" as the Danes had their first training session in England. The champions have armed with the minimum of fuss.

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Cricket

Hussain glee at three

David Hopps on the Essex man with an England brief

FOR a man who had just been told he was batting at No. 8, Hussain looked remarkably self-composed. If you must offer a poisoned chalice, opt for a man with a raging thirst.

England's doom-laden batting position has not been satisfactorily filled since David Gower was in his heyday, a sequence extended by last winter's tour of South Africa.

Seven innings brought only 124 runs, including a half-century by Robin Smith, who logically judged that success at No. 3 would establish him in the side for several years but who instead is now contemplating the likely end of his international career.

No one else fared much better. Mark Waugh's failure in two Tests caused him to be dropped amid renewed doubts about his temperament. Jason Gallian was similarly jettisoned and Graham Thorpe made a guest appearance in what, by his standards, was a moderate tour.

Hussain was preferred at three to John Crawley, whose presence even at No. 6 is far from assured. The Edgbaston pitch was dry enough yesterday for India to consider selecting a second spinner, Joshi, and a heatwave is forecast for the rest of the week.

Hussain has batted at three for Essex since the beginning of last season, as well as on England's A tour to Pakistan, where his captaincy revealed a player of growing maturity. The switch to three came about by happenstance - Mark Waugh, weary after a heavy international programme, asked to drop a place in the order - but it has led to the most impressive form of his career.

When I lost my place in the test side I let my game go a little bit, I saw myself batting on average around the crease, and realised I had to work my game out. I went to Cape Town to play some club cricket and worked hard on my technique with Graham Gooch and Keith Fletcher.

Hussain certainly has one fan, the company he seems to be enjoying in the Teletext cricket scores during Essex's tour match against India. The batsman was shown surging past his hundred of the season when in reality he had just been dismissed. In the next few days, he might just do it for real.

The TCCB has asked Warwickshire for their observations on Dermot Reeve's "bat-throwing" performance against Hampshire at Edgbaston last month. On 15 occasions Reeve tossed away his bat to avoid the risk of being caught off the glove when padding away deliveries.

Q3: Whose hat trick destroyed England in the 1938 European Championship final?

A3: Marco Van Basten's

Results

Soccer

FRIENDLY INTERNATIONALS Holland 11-1 Rep of Ireland 11-1

Golf

BRITISH AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP (Trophy) Lee Lewis (Wales) 135

Tennis

FRENCH OPEN (Paris) Quarter-finals Novak Djokovic (Serbia) 6-4, 6-2, 6-2

Baseball

NATIONAL LEAGUE Pittsburgh 7 Colorado 2

Basketball

FRIENDLY INTERNATIONALS Wales 82 Slovakia 80

Cycling

GRAND PRIX DE LA MONTAGNE (Switzerland) 1st: M. Bo Ljungberg (Den)

Baseball

115, T. Glavin 107, B. E. Borzon (Pitt) 100

Cricket

OTHER MATCH: The Parks: Glamorgan 302-4 vs Glamorgan 102-3

Fixtures

Rugby Union

TOUR MATCH: New South Wales v Wales

Rugby League

EUROPEAN SUPER LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

Motor Sport

ACROPOLIS RALLY Final standings: 1st: M. McLaughlin (USA)

Cricket

OTHER MATCH: The Parks: Glamorgan 302-4 vs Glamorgan 102-3

Cricket

OTHER MATCH: The Parks: Glamorgan 302-4 vs Glamorgan 102-3

Cricket

OTHER MATCH: The Parks: Glamorgan 302-4 vs Glamorgan 102-3

Cricket

OTHER MATCH: The Parks: Glamorgan 302-4 vs Glamorgan 102-3

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Tennis

Stephen Bierley sees the hopes of the women's joint No. 1 seed reduced to ashes on Paris's red-hot clay

Seles scorched in the sun

A HUGE spiral of thick black smoke rose up from the Bois de Boulogne into the blue Parisian skies yesterday afternoon...

for subtlety, this was a duel of broadsword, a series of huge crashing blows that seemed to shake the very fabric of the concrete court...

with a fierce, incandescent intensity, is the knowledge that his former coach Tim Gullikson, who died recently of brain cancer...

ard Krajicek of the Netherlands 6-3, 6-4, 6-7, 6-2. Sampras has two days to recover from yesterday's 3½-hour epic...

sure, most notably in the 1988 Wimbledon final against Graf when nerves garroled her at 4-1 up in the final set.



Seles... brittle form

not by much, but misses they were, which Seles admitted was 'tough mentally'.

Rugby League

Sleightholme on Eagles' wanted list

JON SLEIGHTHOLME, the Bath wing who established a place in the full England side last season...

their players to double up and play rugby league. After the cross-code challenge Jack Robinson...

Bates brings a touch of joy

Paul Weaver on the grass-court season curtain-raiser, the Beckenham Open



Complement of the season... tennis, sunshine, grass and Beckenham, the gentle and genteel start to the ideal British summer

THESE are dark days for national pride, days of gelatine, tallow and bull semen, disgraced Government ministers and Cathy Pacific engineers...

was in 1888. The Field Annual of 1887 reported: 'The turf was in capital condition, for which the ground man, Tate, deserves every praise'.

the names of the recent winners. Richardson and Korda of the men and Gase and Callens of the women...

with the second week of the French Open so that many of the best players are no longer available.

watched by the new British No. 1, the 21-year-old Tim Henman, who won the junior title here four years ago...

Wales to beat weary France

Paul Fitzpatrick favours a weakened but fresh team in Carcassonne tonight

they go on to Gwenthead for the match against England next week.

WALE'S opening into tonight's opening European Championship game against France in Carcassonne...

Credible international results mean everything to France, whose press and television give the sport little consideration...

Basketball

Jordan out to make flakes crumble in final showdown

THEY are calling it 'the four-gone conclusion'. The only question: will Michael Jordan and his supporting cast humiliate the Seattle SuperSonics...

alternately compared to the Beatles and the greatest basketball sides in history. More to the point, what other ending would do for the fairy-tale comeback of Jordan...

Sport in brief

Cycling

Gremeas Obree, the world pursuit champion and 4,000m world record holder...

Equestrianism

Tina Gifford has withdrawn General Jock from Great Britain's three-day event Olympic team short-list...

Motorcycling

Joey Dunlop won his 20th Isle of Man TT race when the 44-year-old Ballymoney publican powered his 250cc Honda...

Hockey

Jason Leslett, the Great Britain Olympic team captain, returning after a month-long injury...

Boxing

A world heavyweight title fight between Evander Holyfield and Mike Tyson has been all but agreed...

Athletics

Odd couple best of enemies

Duncan Mackay on tonight's showdown between Christie and Fredericks in Rome

any of his rivals, but insists his association with Fredericks does not mean he has gone soft.

Paris on Monday. 'Then he came back and he beat me to break the world indoor 200m record in Lievin...

Fredericks became the first man to break 20sec indoors in Lievin when he ran 19.92sec in February...

It is one of a series of mouthwatering clashes in the season's first major IAAF European Grand Prix...

Fredericks had more to say yesterday than Christie, who spent less than 10 seconds meeting journalists at a press conference.

Warrington welcome Hulme

WARRINGTON have won the battle for the signature of Paul Hulme, the former Great Britain forward...

Rugby Football League tribunal, claiming that Widnes had fallen behind with contract payments.

Motor Sport

McRae proves Greece-proof

COLIN MCRAE sealed victory in the Acropolis Rally yesterday by beating Finland's Tommi Makinen by 50 seconds.

EURO 96 FOOTLINE 099 099 1996

Olympic pass for student Modahl

DIANE MODAHL began a week of European media studies exams in Munich yesterday...

FOOTBALL COMES HOME

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

SportsGuardian

ENGLAND AIRCRAFT ROW TAKES NEW FLIGHT PATH

Liverpool pair break ranks

McManaman and Fowler deny any involvement

Martin Thorpe and Ian Ross

THE Cathay Pacific saga descended further into the absurd yesterday when two players bailed out of England's vow of "collective responsibility", and the coach Terry Venables accused the airline of "getting it wrong" over the in-flight damage.

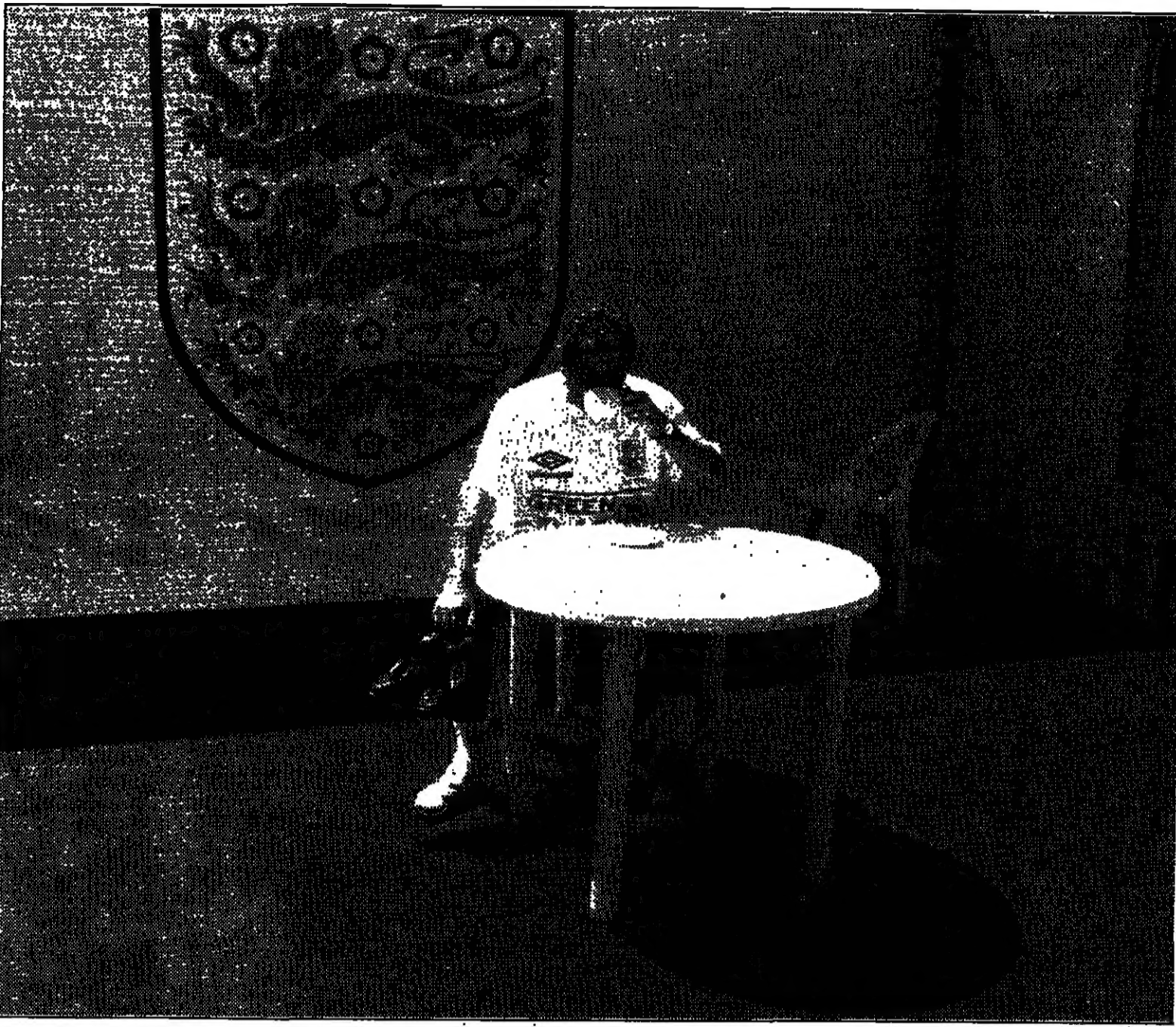
Robbie Fowler and Steve McManaman broke ranks from the rest of the England squad by issuing statements through their solicitors denying any involvement. The disclaimers came only hours after the Football Association's announcement that the whole squad had agreed to take the blame.

The Liverpool players had been accused of involvement by a Sunday newspaper. Fowler's solicitor issued a statement yesterday saying: "Mr Robbie Fowler emphatically denies reports that he was responsible for any damage caused to the Pacific aircraft. He has started legal proceedings against those responsible for publication of these false accusations." An almost identical statement from McManaman was faxed to national newspapers on Monday night.

The England captain David Platt seemed oblivious to these moves at the training ground yesterday as he explained how the idea of a united front was reached.

"We had a discussion with the manager, we had a discussion as players as well. The idea of taking collective responsibility was collective. Everybody was in on the meeting and that was what was decided."

To further fuel the row, Venables cast doubt on Cathay Pacific's version of events, saying he had seen no evidence of any damage. "You believe them but you don't believe us," he told a midday press conference. "So they got it wrong?" he was asked. "I think so," he replied, then challenged journalists: "Have you got any proof from Cathay? Have you got any photographs? Let me see them. If you've got any proof I might say yeah, you're



Lone voice... Terry Venables at the team's Buckinghamshire hotel yesterday, where he questioned Cathay Pacific's version of events. FRANK BARON

right and I'm wrong. But I haven't got any proof otherwise."

In fact photographs do exist of the damage. Police joined Cathay engineers in inspecting the television screens and immediately after it landed a week last Tuesday and took photographs. The police, who are not pursuing the case because as an overseas carrier the plane was outside their jurisdiction, said yesterday

they had no objection to the FA seeing the prints. "As wholly routine, we did take photographs of the alleged damage," said a police spokesman. "If the FA put in a request to see them we would consider it."

A Cathay Pacific spokesman explained how the damage had been assessed. "We got engineers on board and the Metropolitan Police and it was believed by both that it was wilful damage. "Basically

the screens have been broken in a way that they each have a kaleidoscope crack on them, identical damage to both. They were positioned on seats in front of each other."

He said that the 28-seat "bubble" of the Jumbo where the incident took place was totally given over to the players and so Cathay sought compensation from the FA.

The airline first phoned the FA at about 3.15 on the Tuesday. "Basically we phoned the

FA, then sent them a fax at 4.24 detailing the damage and the cost. In between times, two national papers had been offered the story for sale by two cleaners on the plane. There was definitely a leak from someone," confirmed the spokesman.

He expressed surprise at Venables's allegations. "Our lawyer has been dealing with the in-house solicitor at the FA since last Wednesday. Our solicitors have interviewed

the cabin crew on the flight and we are satisfied that it wasn't accidental damage, and as we understood it as of yesterday the FA were satisfied in that respect too because they've agreed on a full and final settlement."

As for the pictures of England players in torn shirts in a Hong Kong night-club, Venables defended the squad's rowdy behaviour. "I said they could have a night out and they had a few drinks. They had to be in at a certain time. The pictures didn't look attractive but they didn't affect anybody's privacy."

David Lacey, page 14

Spreading message for middle age



Vincent Hanna

MIDDLE age is the time in our lives when we can do as much as ever but would rather not. In sport, it is easy to fool oneself: just a few more handgrips and a dollop of embrocation and I'll be as right as rain.

We mourn great players who lose the spark but struggle on to be mocked by young players with a quarter of their talent. Some, like George Best or Muhammad Ali, are seared on our memory, as on a Grecian urn. We sense their best times. But they are the exceptions. In sport, too few grow old gracefully.

"First your legs go," said Willie Pep, the great featherweight boxer, "then you lose your reflexes. Then your friends go."

This week we all got one back. It has been a triumph for the middle-aged, for four great champions who are old enough to know better but who did it anyway.

Middle age is a variable term. Some sports tolerate it better than others; fast bowlers age quicker than batsmen; Ray Reardon won the world snooker championship at 45. Swimmers can be middle-aged at 25 — and some girl gymnasts at puberty.

So what about Tom Watson then? At 46, he has just won the Memorial Tournament in Dublin, Ohio. This was his 33rd USPGA Tour victory but his first since 1987. Tom dominated the game between 1977 and 1983 and won eight majors. But he developed "the yips" and began to miss short punts.

Sufferers from this ghastly disease have terrible nightmares as they stand shaking over the ball; Patrick Campbell once had the fantasy that his putter was turning into a snake which then tried to double back and bite him. On Sunday, Watson holed out from 15 feet on the 18th for a birdie and said: "I can't wait for the US Open next week. Neither can I."

In tennis, age comes more quickly. Jimmy Connors described his onset: "It's not worth it any more. My hips go, my knees get too sore, my back stiffens up and I can't bend." Stefan Edberg forgot all that on Saturday when the

30-year-old danced around Michael Chang in four sets. Roland Garros is my favourite tennis tournament. Clay does not permit flashy winners that are less than perfect, and the bounce is rarely bad.

To win in Paris you need a full range of shots, complete fitness, and rat-like cunning. Power helps but does not compensate for any of these. Stefan's farewell reminded us of the qualities that brought him six Grand Slams, not to mention his unfailing courtesy and good sportsmanship. The match was a joy to watch.

But we were reminded that tennis is a game for younger legs and so that mighty effort against Chang spent his resources; he bowed out on Monday to Marc Rosset.

Talking of young legs, is anyone prepared to bet against Linford Christie for the Olympic 100 metres? In Madrid at the weekend he scamped home in 10.04sec, his seventh European Cup title at that distance. Then he won the 200 metres as well. "New guys have been telling me I was too old. But I've been getting faster as the years go by. Age is just in the mind."

And he said that four years ago, when he was at least 32. Frankie Fredericks won the 100m in the Grand Prix meeting in Paris on Monday in 9.95, the world's fastest time this season, but proclaimed Linford as the favourite for Atlanta. "You don't normally give away an Olympic title, even if you have to run on one leg."

SAVE the best to last. Michael Jordan is the supreme basketball player, some would argue the greatest athlete ever.

If you have not seen him play for the Chicago Bulls, glue yourself to Channel 4's live coverage of the Championship series against Seattle Sonics, starting at 2am tomorrow.

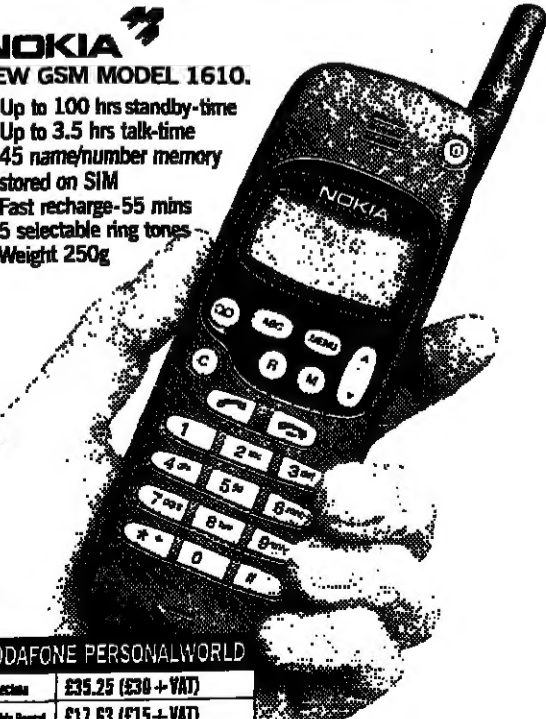
Jordan is a miracle, with the ability to bang in the air, change his mind twice, then score from an impossible angle before descending. Truly a man can fly. In the final play-off against Orlando Magic, he made 45 points out of 106.

At 33, Michael certainly doesn't need the money — he'll earn \$46 million this year — but he wants another NBA championship, and no one has yet figured out a way to stop him. Maybe these great champions know something that the rest of us do not. Or maybe it's because they fear it because they do not stop competing because they are old, rather it is because they know they will grow old when they stop.

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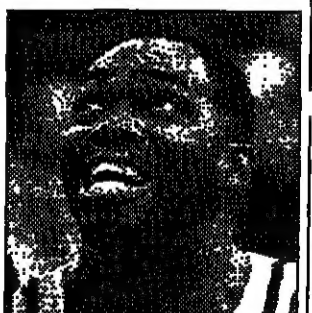
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Basket case: player attacks his manager with trophy

Jack Massarik



GAZZA and Co are not its bad boys too. And whereas Terry Venables's headaches did not begin until his boys boarded the plane, Harry Wrublewski's began right in his office.

"He threatened me with the Budweiser Championship play-off trophy," said Wrublewski, the Birmingham Bullets' manager, recalling a recent interview with Trevor Gordon (right), a Bullet (or possibly loose cannon) who stands 6ft 9in and weighs 19 stone. "It was pretty horrific."

English players often coach at American summer camps during the off-season and their clubs sometimes pay for the outward flight. Gordon, a 32-year-old England and Great Britain centre who has won every domestic honour with Bracknell, Derby, Kingston, Manchester or Birmingham, insisted on a return ticket too. "When he couldn't get it he blew up," said Wrub-

lewski. "He came at me with a chair. He swung. I ducked and he missed. He pushed me around, tried to intimidate me, swore at me and said he was going to slit my throat."

It was then that Gordon, noted as a "volatile personality" who had manhandled at least two previous managers, reached for the silverware. The Budweiser trophy, which incorporates a 2ft-high crystal ball, is the only one the Bullets have ever won, so Wrublewski was doubly agitated when Gordon set it down hard enough to shatter the glass base.

"I think it was deliberate," he said. "He won't be playing for me again."

Gordon was unavailable for comment last night. He is believed to be in the United States and negotiating to play in Belgium next season.

Guardian Crossword No 20,671

Set by Araucaria

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

- Across**
- 1 Have a look at the man you can't stand (6)
 - 4 Mocked for being unkempt (6)
 - 9, 27, 21, 12 Spur to 13 desiring the skill and nerve now needed by woman of the circus (5, 5, 3, 4, 4)
 - 10 Glare or shine fitfully in rough grass (10)
 - 11 It's hotter than it sounds (6)
 - 12 See 9
 - 13 Expert on problems that move (9)
 - 15 Send out from the Mitre (4)
 - 16 Is it played on the water table? (4)
 - 17 Glissando sound of crafty Dickensian Dill (9)
 - 21 See 9
 - 22 Piano hire after 15's backed by 6 (6)
- Down**
- 1 Hide article held by King (7)
 - 2 Do away with most of the Ring? (5)
 - 3 See 14
 - 5 Hermit driven in Texas? (6)
 - 6, 8 Mild people quietly allude to 12s, according to Anita Loos (9, 6, 7)
 - 7 N signalled bribery to Dorothy (4, 3)
 - 8 See 6
 - 14, 3 Chairman almost drunk on spirits: 23 was his 12 (9, 7)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,670

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

- Solution tomorrow**
- 16 Entertainer, one to go astray when dope's around (7)
 - 18 Take the plunge with credit, say, maybe from Wilton (7)
 - 19 Use too badly and fare badly (4, 3)
 - 20 Influenced by the sound of 1 clown (6)
 - 23 The Queen's part is to do little audibly (5)

22 Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 328 238. Calls cost 33p per min, cheap rate, 49p per min at all other times. Service supplied by AT5

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Books and culture

Review

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